FBIS DAILY REPORT

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DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, IMF OUTLINED

PY132255 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 13 Apr 84 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA) -- Maintaining the current purchasing power of wages, raising public utility fares selectively, and devaluing the Argentine peso by 13 percent, and this only gradually, are some of the government's goals in negotiating the national foreign debt with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a high-ranking government source said. But the government is willing to give in fully to the IMF's request for positive domestic interest rates, despite the damage this might inflict on local business.

The source said the "memorandum of agreement" signed between presidential adviser Raul Prebisch and IMF Director Jacques de Larosiere is far from being "even a rough draft of a letter of intent," owing both to serious disagreements among various factions within the radical administration and between the government and the IMF. The "numbers" taken by Prebisch to New York "are already outdated," and differ from those prepared by the Planning Secretariat for use by Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun in his negotiations with the IMF.

Gross domestic product and industrial product rates are the source of major arguments between the government and the IMF, he said, specifying that while the economy minister has planned index growths of five and seven percent, respectively, over last year, the IMF requires that both indices be two percentage points lower. The IMF's argument is that Argentina's industrial growth goals imply a large potential increase in imports and channel balance of trade surplus away from the repayment of foreign commitment.

The ministry targetted this year's imports at 5.5 billion dollars, but the IMF wants this to be about one billion lower -- approximately the same as last year -- to throw off a surplus of about 4.5 billion dollars.

Another conflict with the IMF, the source said, is that the fund wants a major slash in the fiscal deficit, mainly by reducing the payroll by about 20 percent. The government is unwilling to face the political and social costs of dismissing civil servants, but might agree to "flatten out" existing wage scales. Argentina argues that its programmed economic growth rates and the "natural" pressure exerted by labor unions would increase private sector wages, thus contributing to solve that problem.

The source said the government is convinced it can cut the deficit, control inflation, and increase wages without having major currency devaluations. But separate sources regarded as reliable said the letter of intent with the IMF will mention a 40-percent currency devaluation and a massive increase in fiscal pressure, especially on fuels, the cost of which would be expected to double -- in terms of foreign exchange -- within this year.

Lastly, the IMF reportedly insists that the monetary regulation account used by the government to subsidize the financial system be included in the national budget, a measure which Argentine economic experts claim might have a "perverse effect" on the budget.

As for utility fare hikes aimed at increasing the income of state-owned companies, the source said, they will mostly affect those with "captive demands" such as telephones, natural gas in higher-income residential areas, personal transport, and premium fuels.

MIR LEADER SCORES GOVERNMENT, U.S. INTERFERENCE

PY140321 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] leadership did not know beforehand about the economic measures that were set by the Siles government. The ministers who are now holding office simply approved them without discussing or studying them. These serious accusations were made by the [MIR] leader Walter Delgadillo, who resigned the post of urban development and housing minister because he disagreed with the economic measures. In a press conference held on Friday afternoon, Delgadillo told the journalists the following:

[Begin recording] Therefore, we tried as the economic team to pass judgment on things that we knew about such as as the escalator clause and the allowance issues. We have clearly rejected (?them). We have told them that we are returning to the times of a dictatorship. We have made in-depth remarks concerning the issue of the prices for staples. But we were left completely apart, because the MNRI [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left], the PCB [Bolivian Communist Party], and even the MIR members [of the cabinet] did not make any effort to change these things. They all clung together with one thing in mind and agreed that things such as this had to be resolved because as they said -- as everyone else did -- this was the only viable solution. [end recording]

Moving on, MIR leader Walter Delgadillo said that the MIR regional offices were making consultations concerning the troubles that have arisen within the party's ranks. Delgadillo said that there are serious problems since the penetration of imperialism in Bolivia is becoming obvious. Walter Delgadillo, who resigned his post as minister, stressed that they impose [their will] and have economic measures set:

[Begin recording] [in progress]... This is so to such an extent that we may say now that the MIR regional offices are consulting on this problem. The MIR regional office of La Paz has decided to join us. The National Campesino People's Front has decided to join us. We say to our comrades that there are serious problems here. These problems are concretely related to political issues as well as to ideological ones. We are clearly (?going through) it. [end recording]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0043 GMT on 14 April in a report on the press conference adds: "In a press conference that was granted this afternoon, MIR labor leaders charged the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia with having exerted pressures concerning the designation of ministers and vetoing appointments. The U.S. Embassy interference materialized when our comrade Susana Seleme was vetoed as education minister, just because she is a relative of the Cuban ambassador to Bolivia, and Pedro Mariobo was vetoed as urban development and housing minister because he was not a professional, Delgadillo said. He also criticized the MIR leadership, which is led by Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora."]

MINISTER DELGADILLO'S RESIGNATION DIVIDES MIR

PY142121 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1519 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 14 Apr (EFE) -- The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) of Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora has been divided after one of its leaders, Walter Delgadillo, submitted his irrevocable resignation as minister of housing and urban affairs.

The labor sector of the MIR has declared itself against the government and its party leadership, who are members of President Hernan Siles Zuazo's government.

Siles Zuazo installed his new housing and urban affairs minister, Guillermo Capobianco, repudiating the attitude of Delgadillo who was a member of the MIR National Executive Committee. The political crisis which affected the government in the last few weeks was partially solved with the return of the MIR to the government but only 2 days later the MIR was divided, taking away political support from the Siles Zuazo regime.

MNR LEADER REQUESTS SILES ZUAZO'S RESIGNATION

PY151729 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1616 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] La Paz, 15 Apr (EFE) -- Victor Paz Estenssoro, former Bolivian president and head of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), today requested the resignation of President Hernan Siles Zuazo in a paid advertisement published by a local newspaper.

Paz Estenssoro stated through the MNR Political Committee that "the Bolivian people are ruled by a political leader who has lost moral and spiritual authority and the credibility given him by the people who voted for him in 1980." He termed as one of the greatest "senseless political measures of the past years" the recent appointment of the cabinet which enacted the latest economic package. He added that "the present crisis is being intensified by the government's political conduct, which is marked by an overwhelming lack of ideological principles and by internal contradictions over its objectives and goals."

In a series of criticisms against Siles Zuazo, the MNR Political Committee stated that the president has flouted "constitutional rules and the laws which strengthen the democratic process."

Estenssoro said that Siles is the supporter of an "authoritarian Caesarism, because he believes that he, and nobody else, represents democracy." He maintained that "the president must take pity on the sufferings of the people and must resign. This will be a gesture of humility and of democratic recognition of his own weaknesses and of whether he is capable of ruling the country." [as received]

FURTHER REACTION TO ECONOMIC PACKAGE

Minister Reports No Incidents

PY140127 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata asserted that peace has prevailed throughout the country since the government issued the package of economic measures.

In answering journalists' questions the interior minister stated that his Ministry has been in contact with the main authorities of Bolivian departments who informed him about the peaceful atmosphere that prevails in their jurisdictions. Alvarez Plata stated that no incidents altering public order have been reported:

[Begin recording] I have received reports from all the districts of the interior of the Republic with detailed information on all the events that have taken place since 0000 today. I want to point out that the reports are reassuring because, despite a few attempts to carry out marches or demonstrations this afternoon in some districts of the Republic, which for the time being have been of an absolutely peaceful nature, there have been no events that have altered public order. [end recording]

He also stated that some persons had been arrested today, Friday, as a consequence of provocative actions but that he had ordered their release shortly afterwards.

The minister also referred to Huanuni mineworkers who, once they learned about the economic measures, threatened to march on La Paz in order to publicly repudiate the measures. These are the minister's statements in that regard:

[Begin recording] The information I have about the Huanuni mineworkers is that they have declared a hunger strike that; in my opinion, should just be held at their working site. [end recording]

According to the minister of state, at these difficult moments the tranquillity of the Bolivian people should prevail:

[Begin recording] We have confidence in the peoples' tranquillity at this moment and believe that for everyone's welfare tranquillity should be maintained. We hope that no provocative actions which could place life and security at stake, will take place. Thank you very much. [end recording]

These were the statements of Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Federico Alvarez Plata, who asserted that peace prevails throughout the national territory.

COB Declares General Strike

PY131738 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The economic measures which the government announced at approximately 2300 last night has led to negative reactions from various low-income sectors of the Bolivian community. The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] today decreed a national strike from noon today until 0000 on Tuesday, 17 April.

The Bolivian workers have described the economic measures implemented by the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] government as unpopular and antilabor. However, this morning the banks, stores, and industries operated in a relatively normal manner.

The COB will hold a special general meeting on Sunday to evaluate the various aspects of the economic measures which the government announced.

The national strike which the COB ordered today is the first step to protest the economic stabilization plan which the government seeks to implement, according to COB spokesmen. At the meeting scheduled for Sunday, other measures will be decided.

Issues Statement

PY131828 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Apr 84

["Text" of Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] statement read by COB Secretary General Oscar Sanjines Rodriguez on 13 April; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] In order to categorically protest the issuance of the economic package which unloads the heaviest burdens of our country's crisis on Bolivian workers, the COB Executive Board decided the following at this morning's meeting:

1. To declare a national stoppage as of today until 0000 Tuesday, 17 April, to repudiate the antipopular and antilabor nature of the economic measures issued by the government;

2. To call a COB national assembly for Sunday, 15 April, at 0900. This meeting will be held at the Teachers Social Center with the purpose of discussing and establishing actions to be carried out by Bolivian workers in view of the economic measures issued last night;

3. Emergency services, such as water, electricity, phone, and medical services, are exempted from this stoppage; thus essential services are not cut off;

The national television service will only broadcast cultural and entertainment programs, while the press and radio will operate normally.

4. Our protest has no coupist objectives. The workers will defend the democratic process, disregarding any consequences.

La Paz, 13 April 1984; Signed by all the members of the COB Executive Board.

Mineworkers Join Strike

PY132123 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 13 Apr 84

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] La Paz, 13 Apr (EFE) -- Today Bolivian labor unions declared a 48-hour general strike against President Hernan Siles Zuazo's government for implementing drastic economic measures aimed at resolving the country's economic crisis.

The Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), the main labor organization in the country, held an emergency meeting and declared a national stoppage in order to protest and reject all the economic decrees which, according to the COB leaders, "intend to place the burden of the crisis on the people's shoulders." The COB's decision was taken after several working sectors declared 48-hour strikes and, in some cases, indefinite strikes in view of the economic situation. Among these are the mineworkers, who are considered the most combative sector of Bolivia, and the leaders of the national political opposition.

Juan Lechin Oquendo, COB executive secretary, termed as "brutal and savage" the official economic measures, but stressed that the workers' general strike does not seek to destabilize the democratic process. Lechin has warned the sectors allegedly interested in taking advantage of the difficult economic, political, and social situtation that the labor unions will respond decisively to defend the continuity of the state of law.

University students have called the population to take to the streets today and stage a protest march against the "government's measures to starve the people."

Activity in La Paz is not normal today as public transportation has stopped and food stores are closed. The same thing is true in other main cities in the country.

There have been some virulent reactions in Cochabamba against the government's measures, and the labor unions have denounced the Siles Zuazo's regime for "giving in to IMF impositions."

The peasants, who comprise 60 percent of the population, have notified through their Peasant Unions Confederation that they have declared themselves in a state of emergency because the government's decisions are considered detrimental to their sector.

Bus owners have expressed their discontent over the 150-percent fare readjustment ordered by the government, and have decided to stop service while transportation workers resort to pressure tactics through their union.

This morning the government ordered a 400-percent devaluation of the Bolivian peso against the U.S. dollar, a 300-500-percent food price readjustment, and the removal of subsidies to oil byproducts the prices of which went up fivefold.

Planning Minister Ernesto Aranibar has stated that "it is imperative to face with realism and decisiveness the crisis scourging the people and the democratic process." Aranibor termed the approach for the measures as an "anti-inflationary" one and warned that, had no immediate corrections been approved, inflation in Bolivia would have hit an average rate in excess of 1,000 percent by year's end.

The Bolivian people reacted to the economic measures with anger and disbelief through their representative organizations, both trade unions and political groups, which regarded such measures as a "true blow to the people."

The government has ordered that police and military troops throughout the country report to their barracks, in case disturbances occur. In addition, the government is looking into a solution to a cabinet crisis which took place last night when the Urban Development and Housing Minister Walter Delgadillo, discontented with the economic measures, submitted his irrevocable resignacion.

Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has asked all Bolivians for more understanding in order to prevent the worsening of the crisis and the erosion of the constitutional process.

Cities Paralyzed

PY132155 AFP in Spanish 2051 GMT 13 Apr 84

[By David Marquez Castillo]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Requests for President Hernan Siles Zuazo's resignation, stoppages, strikes, marches of protest and an almost complete paralyzation of the main Bolivian cities represented the initial reaction of the Bolivian citizenry to the very harsh economic measures issued early today.

The second highest monetary devaluation in Bolivian history, a general price increase, and the increase of the cost of living caused by the issuance of more than 30 decrees has had a devastating effect that has sparked social upheaval.

Housewives of most of the La Paz suburbs staged marches of protest and in some cases tried to loot grocery stores seeking foodstuff in view of a complete shut down of stores and the paralization of urban public transport.

The mineworkers of Huanuni, the most important Bolivian tin mine, have started a march toward La Paz where, according to them, they will start a hunger strike until they obtain a 300 percent salary increase.

After a multitudinous march the mineworkers of Potosi (750 km south of La Paz) termed the current government as the enemy of the working class and demanded the chief of state's resignation.

Opposition political parties once again requested Siles Zuazo's resignation and the calling for general elections.

In the meantime, the Federation of Neighborhood Committees (FEJUVE), of an opposition tendency, has summoned an outdoor assembly to be held on Monday during which the La Paz neighborhoods will repudiate the corrective measures implemented by the government and will demand Siles Zuazo's resignation.

The government authorities are evaluating the working class reaction and have announced that they will start negotiations in order to reach an agreement that will consolidate the democratic process. Next week will be a decisive week for the country's political future.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS PROVOKE PANIC IN LA PAZ

PY140100 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Violence has caused panic in Pa Paz. A group of university as well as secondary school students held a multitudinous demonstration this evening to express their full rejection of the economic measures implemented by the Democratic and Popular Unity.

The demonstration was organized by the FUL (Local University Federation). During their march through various streets of this capital, the students stoned houses and private vehicles causing serious damages.

It is reported that the students were harshly repressed by Bolivian police forces. Tear gas bombs were hurled in various streets but it seems that there are no arrested nor wounded persons.

Police Deployed To Halt March

PY151552 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1527 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Plaza Murillo [in La Paz] is heavily guarded by police armed with tear gas grenades to prevent the entrance of university students who are marching toward this plaza. This is the situation here at San Francisco Park, while the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] continues its general meeting.

Head for COB Building

PY151555 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1536 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The meeting that university students have staged at Plaza San Francisco has just ended. They are now heading for the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] headquarters. No incidents have thus far been reported. This is the report filed by correspondent Omar Velasquez:

The students are now heading for the COB building and, according to student leader (Simon Peris Rojas), they will ask the COB to decree a general indefinite strike.

There are some 2,000 students marching toward the COB building.

COB MEETING BEGINS WITH NECESSARY QUORUM

PY151441 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1421 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] meeting began exactly 20 minutes ago with the necessary quorum. There are a considerable number of representatives from different sectors and areas of the country. The agenda includes letters, the current transportation stoppage, the economic package, and other issues.

Issues Document

PY160020 Paris AFP in Spanish 2253 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Amid a continuing general strike, a special national assembly of union leaders called by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) today strongly condemned the government's economic measures which it described as being inspired and imposed by the IMF.

Considering the adoption of these measures by the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) as an act of treason against the workers and sectors without assured income, the COB decided by a majority vote to initiate negotiations and to implement measures to exert pressure on the government such as a national strike, protest marches, and the mobilization of peasants.

The COB assembly, which was chaired by Juan Lechin Oquendo, was attended by many delegates of all Bolivian labor sectors. The assembly described the 300 percent [as received] monetary devaluation, the general increase of prices, and related measures, as a true confiscation of workers incomes.

The COB document, which was approved by an absolute majority, charges that salaries have lost their purchasing power by 286 percent while the latest salary increases amounted to only 40 percent.

The COB document notes that monthly salaries last only 15 days and concentrates its criticism on the local Chicago boys and banking businessmen who have proposed these measures.

Mining leader Oscar Salas, of the pro-Soviet Bolivian Communist Party, which is a member of the ruling UDP, has stated that the Bolivian union movement must promote the adoption of new measures which would affect bourgeois sectors linked with imperialism.

Teachers union leader Miguel Lora, who is linked to the Troskyite Workers Revolutionary Party (POR), has accused the Communists of endorsing IMF-oriented measures and demanded that the COB declare an indefinite general strike to obtain the enforcement of a basic salary with an escalator clause.

Sabino Rodriguez, of the Departmental Labor Confederation of Cochabamba (at the center of the country) demanded that the COB become an option to run the government in the face of the UDP's failure. He also endorsed the proposal to declare an indefinite strike beginning tomorrow, Monday.

Peasants representative Abdon Rojas demanded the immediate recognition of the legal status of the Peasants Agricultural Corporation (Coraca) as the first workers-managed enterprise in the rural area. His motion was approved by the assembly. If necessary, we will call a general strike or will block roads, he said.

LA PAZ RURAL TEACHERS DECREE 72-HOUR STRIKE

PY151603 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1540 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] According to a communique issued by La Paz rural teachers, this sector will stage a 72-hour strike beginning on 0000 17 April, to demand that the government revise the latest economic measures.

SILES ZUAZO RECEIVES ARAB LEAGUE AMBASSADORS

PY142339 Paris AFP in Spanish 0157 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Upon conclusion of a cordial meeting held with President Hernan Siles Zuazo the Arab League ambassadors who are paying a visit to Bolivia told AFP that ties with Bolivia will be strengthened.

Present at the meeting were Habib an-Nimr, from the Kingdom of Jordan; Nuri al-Ways, from Iraq; Sharif Ahmad and Sidi Sadummah, from Sudan, and Muhammad Kalaut, deputy head of the mission.

Kalaut said that the Arab countries are willing to develop economic ties with Africa, Asia, and Latin America, for which reason they are touring Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

Kalaut finally stressed that over the next few days a press conference will be summoned to further expand on these objectives but that, in the meantime, they will hold meetings with Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, and with the heads of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.

CORRECTION TO PURCHASE OF SOVIET-MADE TRACTORS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Government to Purchase Soviet-Made Tractors" published in the 13 April Latin America DAILY REPORT on page C 3.

Source-line should read as follows: PY121531 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 4 Apr 84 p 4 (changing month to April)

PDS: MAY NEED EMERGENCY MEASURES 25 APRIL

WA161353 Rome IPS in English 7 Apr 84

[By Arnaldo Cesar]

[Text] Brasilia, April 11 (IPS) -- Brazil's ruling party today warned that emergency measures might be needed April 25 when Congress is expected to vote an opposition amendment to restore the direct vote in next year's presidential elections. The warning came in the wake of yesterday's rally of nearly one million people in Rio de Janeiro demanding a direct vote. Senate Leader Aloysio Chavez repeated the administration's threats that it will impose a state of emergency throughout Brazil on the day legislators vote on the proposed constitutional amendment.

Brazil's next president is now scheduled to be chosen by a 686-member Electoral College, where the ruling Social Democratic Party (PDS) holds a solid majority.

Other PDS members sought to downplay the success of the massive demonstration yesterday in Rio de Janeiro, the largest turnout of a political event in Brazilian history and the climax of a dozen rallies in major cities in recent months to express support for the direct vote movement. Chavez argued that many people attended the Rio de Janeiro rally just to see famous singers and other public figures who addressed the crowd. PDS President Jose Sarney said that the demonstrations will have no effect on his party's stance on the direct vote issue.

Judging from the large attendance at the recent rallies and opinion polls which say 90 percent of Brazilians want the direct vote, Brazilian citizens appear eager to cast their own ballots for president, after 20 years of military rule. The last direct presidential elections were in 1962, and that system was abolished when the Armed Forces seized the government in 1964. But despite the evident public support for direct vote, President Joao Figueiredo and his supporters are standing firm against changing the voting system in time for the next election. As a compromise measure, they will reportedly present a constitutional amendment which would shorten the presidential term from the current six years and mandate direct elections in 1988 or 1989.

All eyes are now on Congress, which on April 25 will decide on the direct vote amendment presented by the opposition, in which the PDS would have to stand united on the vote to defeat the opposition amendment. The PDS leader in the House of Deputies, Nelson Marchezan, admitted that Figueiredo's supporters face a tough fight in Congress, and that the administration's possibilities for negotiating are growing slimmer.

Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), the largest opposition party, told the crowd yesterday that "new skirmishes are being mounted to prevent the people's will from coming to pass." Guimaraes told IPS that after seeing the turnout in Rio de Janeiro, he has no doubt that Congress will approve the opposition's amendment. Even if the amendment fails to pass on the first vote, he said, later negotiations with the administration will inevitably lead to immediate restoration of the direct balloting system.

Workers' party leader Luis Ignacio da Silva, a former metalworkers' unionist known as "Lula," said that if the opposition amendment is defeated, opposition parties should start negotiating with Vice President Aureliano Chavez. Chavez is seeking the PDS presidential nomination, but supports the direct vote movement. He also appears to be the presidential contender with the most public backing.

Political columnist Carlos Castello Branco, one of Brazil's most prestigious commentators, warned today in a column in the daily JORNAL DO BRASIL that Brazil may be going into an irresoluble conflict on the direct vote issue.

Military sources indicate that some Armed Forces sectors would not favor the imposition of a state of emergency. The most liberal officers argue that emergency measures would aggravate the military's position in Brazil's current story political climate, at a time when the Armed Forces are preparing to withdraw from government power. Those sectors also note that so far, all the rallies and demonstrations in favor of the direct vote have been peaceful, so that there is no justification for military intervention to preserve order.

In the most striking example of the peaceful atmosphere which was pervaded all the rallies, some one million people at yesterday's demonstration listened to an address by 91-year-old jurist Sobral Pinto in absolute silence. When Pinto cited Brazil's need for a respectable military which will guarantee fulfillment of the Constitution and the will of the majority, the silence gave way to enthusiastic applause.

CHAVES TO OPENLY CAMPAIGN FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY131328 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Vice President Aureliano Chaves has decided to openly support the direct elections campaign. The vice president has decided to participate in the campaign in support of direct presidnetial elections. During a meeting he held in Brasilia, Chaves informed Ceara PDS [Social Democratic Party] Deputy (Gustavo Leite) that after President Figueiredo resumes the government leadership upon his return from abroad next week, he will openly support holding direct presidential elections for Figueiredo's successor. This information has [words indistinct] in Congress since opposition legislators believe that Chaves' endorsement for the direct election campaign is strong support for the Dante de Oliveira amendment which must be voted on 25 April.

FIGUEIREDO RETURNS FROM MOROCCO, SPAIN TRIPS

PY142230 Paris AFP in Spanish 2147 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Brazilian President General Joao Baptista Figueiredo arrived at 1700 local time (2000 GMT) today in this capital from Madrid after an official visit to Morocco and Spain.

DE LA PLATA SCORES U.S. 'INTERVENTION'

PY150315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0237 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 14 Apr (EFE) -- [Acting] Interior Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata today stated that the recent statement released by the U.S. Department of State on the Chilean situation "is an obvious intervention in Chilean domestic affairs." Marquez de la Plata is acting as interior minister since the incumbent, Sergio Onofre Jarpa, has undergone surgery.

Marquez de la Plata referred to recent statements made by the Department of State which criticized the arrest of the Chilean journalist Juan Pablo Cardenas and the explusion of Communist leaders Jaime Insunza and Leopoldo Ortega. Marquez de la Plata explained that Cardenas' detention took place in compliance with a court ruling, "with the greatest respect toward the judiciary." According to Marquez de la Plata, the explusion of Insunza and Ortega was due to press interviews held by the Communist leaders a few days before their explusion from the country.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON EEC MINISTERS' 'MEDDLING'

PY131515 Paris AFP in Spanish 0252 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 12 Apr (AFP) -- It was reported today that the Chilean military government will protest to the EEC foreign ministers because of a recent declaration in which they demanded the establishment of a democratic regime in Chile. Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle stated that they are meddling in the domestic affairs of another country. In Luxembourg, the EEC foreign ministers deplored the repression of demonstrations in the country, and repudiated the persecution of certain political figures, press restrictions, and the stepping up of repression and violence in Chile.

Del Valle stated that Chilean Ambassador to the EEC Manuel Trucco will reply to that organization regarding the remarks made on the domestic situation in Chile.

INTERIOR MINISTER: COUNTRY NOT A CIRCUS

PY141453 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The interior minister has said that this country is not a circus in which everyone can mess around as much as they please. He stressed that there is a constitution, a bill of rights, and lawfully elected officials backed by the people. Minister Jarpa held a press conference yesterday in which he announced that he will talk next week with some bishops regarding the statement made by the latter regarding the resumption of a dialogue. He also discussed several other topics, beginning by saying that he does not know of any petition by Jaime Insunza and Leopoldo Ortega to return to the country. Jarpa stressed that the government will not reconsider the explusion of the two politicians, because the reasons for their explusion are still valid.

The interior minister then reiterated that the government cannot disregard its commitment to the country, the people, and the Constitution. He also spoke of the freedom of expression:

[Begin recording] There is freedom of expression here, and people can say what they wish. They may criticize the government, within the limits set by the Constitution and the law, of course, but the government cannot keep changing its course to please every political leader who proposes a plan. In the first place it is not known whether they represent a large majority sector, as they say themselves, or a minority, as others say. [words indistinct] It is necessary to make an effort to think. This country is not a circus in which everyone can mess around as much as they please. [end recording]

AD PRESIDENT PROPOSES QUICK RETURN TO DEMOCRACY

PY142050 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2141 GMT 13 Mar 84

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Excerpt] Santiago, 13 Apr (EFE) -- The Democratic Alliance (AD) has submitted a proposal for a quick return to democracy in a speech entitled "Message to Chileans" delivered by the AD president, former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes. Valdes, who was minister of foreign relations during the Christian Democratic government of Eduardo Frei, became president of the AD, the most important opposition multiparty organization, last March.

In answer to a call for dialogue recently made by Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno, the AD submitted a proposal which, among other things, calls for the development of an 18-month transition period within the framework of a constitutional statute. The proposal reaffirmed the AD declaration of August 1983 in which Valdes himself set the goals which gave life to this multiparty organization: The resignation of the chief of state and the establishment of a provisional government and a constituent assembly. Within this general framework, the AD proposed a transition period toward democracy based on a national proposal born from "negotiations among all democratic political parties."

After reviewing what he called "the most serious economic, political, and cultural crisis of the last few years," Valdes made an evaluation of the latest events. Valdes said that due to the "catastrophic" economic situation only a political change will make any new economic plan work. The AD president insisted that any international aid from developing countries "must have as a basis a stable democratic government." The AD president also warned about the dangers of what he called the "militarization of society," indicating that those who believe in it must be aware that it will always be temporary and that it will polarize the country "creating wounds which will remain open for many years."

While the AD was delivering its "Message to Chileans," the majority of Chilean political parties were expressing support for the call made by Archbishop Fresno by delivering proposals to make institutional normalization possible.

SOCIALIST LEADER ALMEYDA RELEASED BY COURT

PY132205 Paris AFP in Spanish 2127 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Today Chilean Socialist leader Manuel Almeyda, president of the People's Democratic Movement, was released in Santiago after almost 2 months of imprisonment for charges by the military government of promoting subversion and general strikes. Manuel Almeyda's release was ordered by the Court of Appeals and was officially announced to the Socialist leader, who has been in the Santiago public prison since 15 February. This information was learned at the Court of Appeals.

RERUN OF PAGE: REPORTAGE ON STUDENT STOPPAGE

Herewith is a rerun of the page, published in the 13 April Latin America DAILY REPORT page E 2 that was misprinted:

Possibly, the president told the National War College delegation, some things will draw your attention, but those are only because we are in a transition toward democracy. The chief of state stressed that freedom exists, although today we are in a state of emergency because there are terrorists who are intent on carrying out terrorist plans. But you, the president said in closing, can see that the emergency measures are not as hard as they are made out to be.

REPORTAGE ON 12 APR UNIVERSITY STUDENT STOPPAGE

Minister Comments

PY121436 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marquez de la Plata has stressed that a large number of students want to study, adding that if they want to express their disagreement, they should do so in a reasonable manner and through the appropriate channels. Marquez de la Plata made this statement in answer to a question on actions carried out recently in some universities, specifically the stoppage scheduled for today.

Marquez de la Plata added that there are violent groups whose sole objective is to use the university to create chaos, but that these groups are very small in number. The minister secretary general also discussed the facilities each rector has in his respective university and institution.

[Begin recording] [Marquez de la Plata] Each rector has the authority to adopt the measures he may deem appropriate to guarantee the normal functioning of the university so that those students who want to study will be able to study. He must also see to it that university property is not destroyed.

[Unidentified reporter] What will happen if this disorder and violence extends beyond the university campus [word indistinct] in the interior?

[Marquez de la Plata] Well, all these things, as you know, have been foreseen and the appropriate measures adopted. There is no problem in this regard.

[Reporter] Did you have previous knowledge that all these things were being organized?

[Marquez de la Plata] Well, it is very similar to what happened on other occasions. There are always small groups in some of the universities that try to create a climate of agitation. They are very similar. [end recording]

The minister secretary general of government added that minority groups are always responsible for disorders in the universities.

Some Students Reject Strike

PY121528 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Marxist university student stoppage scheduled for today is a rehearsal for a future general stoppage. This statement has been made by Alfredo Burgos, president of the Federation of Catholic University Students [FEUC]. He said that this action does not respond to student demands, but to political maneuvers of activist groups and agitators.

GOVERNMENT CHIDES U.S., OTHER ENVOYS FOR CONDUCT

PA140501 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Bogota -- The foreign minister today called to the attention of all diplomatic missions accredited in Colombia the need for their personnel to behave prudently at all times, in keeping with their status as representatives of foreign governments. The request to the diplomatic corps is contained in a note released today, which also mentions specific cases of diplomatic officials whose actions have caused public disapproval. The note, which was distributed to all diplomatic missions, gives the examples of U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs, Nicaraguan Consul Rosenaldo Javier Castro Soto and his secretary, and Yuri Obolentsev, the first secretary of the Soviet Embassy.

On the same topic, the Foreign Ministry also revealed Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo's reply to Senator Gilberto Vieira, Communist Party secretary general, in which the minister comments on the note.

The text of the letter to Senator Vieira and the note sent to the embassies follows:

Mr Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Colombian Communist Party, Bogota:

Mr secretary general, I reply to your letter dated 20 February 1984 on the statement made by U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs during a television newscast, in which you request a comment from this ministry on the diplomat's statement. The Foreign Ministry has carefully studied the statement that you denounced and has concluded that this has been an incident much like others involving other foreign diplomats that have produced understandable reactions. In view of this, the Foreign Ministry has sent a note to all diplomatic missions accredited in Bogota, a copy of which I have attached to this letter. The note calls attention to the need for their personnel...

[Interrupts sentence and begins reading note] The Foreign Ministry respectfully greets the honorable diplomatic missions accredited in Bogota and would like to let you know that it has received with increasing concern over the past few months public and private reports from Colombian citizens, institutions, and organizations about actions or statements of foreign diplomats. We mention the following examples to illustrate these incidents:

On 3 September 1983, Rosenaldo Javier Castro Soto, the Nicaraguan Consul in Bogota, and his assistant Miss Laura Medina organized an event in La Candelaria theater to establish the so-called Carlos Fonseca Amador Internationalist Brigade. During this event, the participants agreed to organize another meeting to stage a protest in front of the U.S. Embassy in Bogota.

In October 1983, Yuri Obolentsev, first secretary of the Soviet Embassy, annoyed by comments on the ROK plane incident carried in the Colombian newspaper EL COLOMBIANO, which is published in Medellin, staged an unpleasant incident resulting in justified complaints from the director of that newspaper's office in Bogota. The incident also prompted an editorial written by Senator (Juan Gomez Martillo), the newspaper's assistant editor.

In February 1984, U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs talked with newsman Hernando Corral of the "Seven O'Clock Newscast," and referred to links between the Colombian Communist Party and the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], and to links between the FARC and drug trafficking.

Ambassador Tambs' statement resulted in an understandable protest from the Communist Party -- which is legally registered in Colombia -- in a note dated 20 February signed by Senator Gilberto Vieira, the secretary general of the Central Committee.

It is understandable that this kind of action should generate disapproval in Colombian public sectors. It is evident that they run contrary to diplomatic behavior and custom. The Foreign Ministry realizes this and thus wishes to call the attention of the honorable diplomatic missions accredited in Bogota to the need for their personnel to behave prudently at all times in keeping with their status as the representatives of foreign governments. The Colombian Government has tried to maintain tolerance and understanding in its relations with diplomatic representatives from friendly nations. It wishes to continue this policy and avoid the implementation of measures that could be annoying. It therefore requests the firm cooperation of the diplomatic corps.

The Foreign Ministry takes advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to the honorable diplomatic missions accredited in Bogota its highest and most distinguished esteem.

[dated] Bogota, 12 April 1984

PEASANTS REPORTEDLY KIDNAP, RELEASE OFFICIALS

PA142258 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Four high-ranking officials of the Attorney General's Office who had been kidnapped on Thursday by a group of peasants from the Middle Magdalena region arrived safely in Bogota this morning. The peasants claim they are being harassed by guerrillas and the Army, the officials said when they arrived at the airport. The officials, together with Tunja local Judge Luis Eduardo Parra, were investigating the deaths of several people and the alleged discovery of a mass grave in Sambingo. It was claimed that rebel groups and other paramilitary organizations had buried their victims there.

The four Attorney General's Office officials, Dario Tirado, Nelson Enrique Barrios, Ernesto Barrera, and Alfonso Lopez Ramirez, are now at the Attorney General's Office. It is believed that a communique on the incident will be issued.

Neither MAS [Death to Kidnappers] nor any other guerrilla group had kidnapped the officials; they were seized on Thursday by 35 armed men while carrying out an investigation in Tunja, according to statements made this morning by the officials upon their arrival at the airport. They told Radio Super that the group of peasants who had kidnapped them wanted to denounce the abuses committed against them by the Army and the guerrilla groups. The four officials said they had been treated well and had not been threatened with death. They denied that their captors belonged to the MAS.

M-19 LEADER WILLING TO TALK TO GOVERNMENT

PA141851 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Relay by unidentified reporter of Radio Cadena Nacional in Bogota -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] The leftist 19 April Movement, M-19, one of the most active guerrilla groups of Colombia in recent years, today announced it is willing to discuss with the government some points that could lead to the consolidation of the peace process being promoted by President Belisario Betancur.

Alvaro Fayad Delgado, second-in-command of the M-19 following the death of Jaime Bateman Cayon in an airplane accident in Panama, today met with Radio Cadena Nacional newsmen in Bogota, Colombia, and spoke about the possibilities of a cease-fire following the peace agreement signed by the pro-communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, and the government of President Betancur.

This is the first statement made by the M-19 since the signing of the government-FARC agreement. It comes 1 month after the seizure of the city of Florencia, southwest of Bogota, an action that was without precedent in the history of guerrilla activities in the country.

Fayad said he will soon meet with the leaders of the pro-Maoist Popular Liberation Army, the pro-Castro Army of National Liberation, and FARC for the purpose of forming a guerrilla bloc that would facilitate a more promising dialogue with the movement of President Betancur.

We have spent more than 10 years struggling for a dialogue. We use arms and all the resources available to secure peace and social justice in Colombia, he said. Alvaro Fayad said that the leaders of the M-19 are prepared to talk with the government's peace commissioners. Fayad also denied that Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, the famous Commander Uno of the seizure of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota in February 1980, and Carlos Pizarro Leon Gomez, another M-19 leader who left prison last year as a result of the amnesty decreed by President Betancur, have died.

FARC 12TH FRONT SUPPORTS PEACE AGREEMENTS

PA142317 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Bucaramanga -- The Jose Antonio Galan 12th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] has announced in Uribe, El Meta Department, its support for the peace agreements recently signed by the government and the FARC General Command. The Jose Antonio Galan Front sent a communique to Supernews in Santander stating that there is now a need for complementary measures to allow all the country's groups and social classes to have access to the country's leadership, so that everyone can participate in building a more progressive and just country.

FARC REPORTEDLY EXECUTES 2 IN LA COLORADA

PA100418 Bogota Cadena Radia Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Bucaramanga -- The wave of violence in the Middle Magdalena was resumed today by a command of the so-called Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, with the execution of a woman and her son. According to the police, the double shooting took place in the village La Colorada, in the corregimiento of El Carmen, San Vicente municipality. The victims were identified as Ana Luz de Quiroga and her 13-year-old son, Carlos Arthuro Quiroga.

Villagers told the police that a group of approximately 15 men in military uniforms carrying high-caliber firearms broke into the house of the victims and shot the woman and her son in front of the rest of the family. Before leaving, the killers left a large amount of FARC propaganda. A 5th Brigade unit was sent to the region to try to locate the extremists.

NEW PREMIER INSTALLED; BELAUNDE ON IMF, ECONOMY

PY131623 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The new foreign minister and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Sandro Mariategui, has said that the negotiations with the IMF are progressing well.

Mariategui took over today as foreign minister during a ceremony in which he was introduced to the ministry's personnel by former Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb. The former prime minister asked the ministry's personnel to give Mariategui the same cooperation as they had given him when he held the post. After this ceremony, Mariategui referred to the Latin American foreign debt.

And tonight President Belaunde referred to the negotiations with the IMF and to the country's economic policy.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, we would like to know whether we understand your speech. Will the austerity measures by respected?

[Belaunde] Of course they are going to be respected. That is why we have said: Austerity without recession. In other words, the austerity measures will be complied with, but we are making every effort to have corrective and complementary measures adopted that will not violate the austerity clauses, but will stop the austerity clauses from causing a recession. This fact is being accepted.

[Reporter] Mr President, regarding what you said about the fact that the IMF has accepted that the share that is supplied by the government will not be more than 20 percent, does this mean...

[Belaunde] No, no percentage has been set. The IMF has understood that the request is fair and since the IMF does not give direct loans for development, it is using its influence with other institutions, especially the World Bank, to get them to reduce the government share. I know that this has occurred and that it has been quite successful.

[Reporter] Mr President, what has the IMF said with respect to the $250 million loan?

[Belaunde] All is in order. All the steps have been taken, and I understand that the IMF contacted the economy minister today.

[Reporter] Referring to the contact that you have had with Washington, what did you talk about?

[Belaunde] Everything that I talked about has already been published, right, regarding the idea that the government share should be reduced.

[Reporter] Regarding the postponement of the deadline for the signing of the letter of intent, is there anything new to report, Mr President?

[Belaunde] The letter of intent does not have a deadline and it is not going to be replaced with another one. What we plan to do is to make an addition, because one of the sources of funds has not been viable and another source has been sought. There has been compensation. Therefore, what will happen is that we will have a sort of post-script.

[Reporter] Mr President, how then will the formula for obtaining austerity without recession be achieved?

[Belaunde] The formula is based on the coordination of all the development organizations, and this is something that we are already doing. We have started this coordination. Very important road construction contracts were signed yesterday. Yes, we have already started, everything will be done in April; this cannot wait forever, it has to be done in April.

[Reporter] What is your major concern at this time?

[Belaunde] My major concern, naturally, is that of employment. We want to promote employment. We are very concerned about unemployment, which means hunger. [end recording]

PREMIER ON EXTERNAL DEBTS, L.A. COOPERATION

PY131329 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Economy Minister Jose Benavides Munoz will announce the new economic program within the next few days. Financial analysts have indicated that the new economic program will make it difficult for Peru to remain within the guidelines of the letter of intent that has already been submitted to the IMF.

Prime Minister Sandro Mariategui has asked Latin American countries to stimulate joint cooperation in order to overcome the very serious crisis affecting the region.

The new prime minister also stated that the external debts of the Latin American countries are the most serious problem at this time. He also asked for flexible and realistic criteria which will take into account the paying capability of the debtor countries, in order to ease economic pressure being applied against them.

BELAUNDE CALLS FOR CREATION OF ANDEAN PESO

PY142103 Paris AFP in Spanish 1335 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry has called on Latin American financial organizations for integration, to put greater emphasis on the studies for the creation of the Andean peso in order for the countries of the region to have as soon as possible their own monetary system aimed at strengthening their fragile economies.

In this regard Belaunde emphasized the serious efforts being made by the Cartagena Accord based on concrete proposals of the Peruvian Industrial Bank and of other organizations of the region who are working for the creation of the Andean peso. The president also mentioned the studies being made by ALADI for the establishment of a new monetary unit at the Latin American level.

Belaunde said: We need to have a common currency as soon as possible. It would be fine if it is at the Andean countries level but much better if this is attained at the Latin American level. The chief of state made these remarks during the opening of a seminar on Andean integration organized by the Lima Chamber of Commerce.

The president labeled as an act of courage the decision made by Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo who in a difficult situation devalued the Bolivian peso 400 percent. Belaunde added: Under this situation we have to resort to the U.S. dollar for any commercial transaction. Due to the instability and lack of synchronization of our monetary system we are forced to take shelter under the dollar, that is, a foreign shelter. The chief of state also said that it is absurd that trade between Peru and Bolivia, which is carried out at the Titicaca Lake Basin, has to be made in dollars.

ARMED FORCES REITERATE SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

PY141556 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0918 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 14 Apr (EFE) -- The Peruvian Armed Forces reiterated their support for democracy in Peru 24 hours after the installation of the new cabinet, with which President Fernando Belaunde has resolved a ministerial crisis.

War Minister General Oscar Brush expressed the Armed Forces' support for the democratic government during the course of a press conference, attended by the entire cabinet, presided over by Prime Minister Sandro Mariategui at Government House. The press conference took place after the cabinet had held its first meeting. The war minister also stated that in the fight against the subversive Maoist group Shining Path, which is one of the problems of President Belaunde's government, it is the Joint Command of the Armed Forces that outlines the strategy and operational plans for the Emergency Zone.

Navy Minister Vice Admiral Jorge Dubois said that the Navy, Army, and Air Force are "in a permanent state of alert" regarding a possible arms race that "happily has not become a fact up to the present time."

Aeronautics Minister Lieutenant General Jose Zlatar reported that "steps were being taken" for the purchase of Mirage planes.

WAR MINISTER SEES DECLINE IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY

PY141554 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Regarding the task of the political-military command in the emergency zone, War Minister General Oscar Brush Noel has said that subversive activity has decreased in the last 3 months and that the Holy Week can be celebrated in Ayacucho with full guarantees:

[Begin recording] The strategy of the antisubversive struggle is drawn up by the Armed Forces Joint Command. Under the Armed Forces Joint Command, the operations are implemented by the commander of the Second Military Region, to whom General Huaman is directly subordinate.

As you have been able to appreciate, the subversive activity of the communist terrorists of the Shining Path has decreased considerably in the last 3 months. At present a plan is being studied for the development of the Ayacucho region and the Huancavelica Department, including all 12 provinces that are in a state of emergency.

We believe that the activities being carried out by President Fernando Belaunde Terry's government and the continuity of the policy now being followed by the new Prime Minister Sandro Mariategui will lead to an improvement of the situation in Ayacucho. [end recording]

TERRORIST ACTIONS, ATTACKS, CASUALTIES REPORTED

PY140010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1528 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Lima, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources reported today in Lima that six terrorists from the Shining Path, the Peruvian extremist movement, died on Wednesday during a clash with antisubversive forces in Chontacancha, Huancavelica, 522 km from Lima. According to unconfirmed reports, the terrorists were discovered by a police patrol inside a cave where they kept explosives, arms, and ammunition. Three of the dead were identified but the other three had no papers.

Police also reported that early on Thursday four terrorists attacked the Chorrillos Women's Prison with submachineguns and dynamite to provoke a massive escape. Chorrillos is a resort located south of Lima. According to the reports, the attack against the prison, in which 50 of the 657 inmates are alleged terrorists, was repelled by members of the Republican Guard, who wounded one of the terrorists who was taken away by the other attackers.

In Huancayo, 300 km southeast of Lima, some 20 hooded and heavily armed men and women yesterday seized the Tupac Amaru National School and addressed a message on the armed struggle to the 600 students and faculty. They then left the school.

Finally, hundreds of teachers who work in Ayacucho and Huancavelica Departments, particularly in the rural areas, have asked for guarantee's in the wake of threats from the Shining Path.

Percovich Advocates Dialogue

PY151954 Paris AFP in Spanish 1759 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Police have reported that at least 20 Peruvian peasants died during a clash with a large group of subversives who last Friday occupied the town of Ancopa, located in San Jose de Acobambilla District in Huancavelica Department, 522 km southeast of Lima. The peasants, who were only armed with slingshots, sticks, and stones, strongly opposed a group of armed Shining Path members who murdered the peasants with blasts of submachinegun fire.

On the same day. a Shining Path group killed an old lady who was the mother of Paulino Silvera, governor of Pampacancha District, located in Huanta Province in Ayacucho Department. The terrorists also left Silvera's son seriously injured.

Meanwhile, another subversive group tortured and later killed a youth in the town of Luricocha.

At dawn yesterday, three Shining Path members, including two dressed as policemen, robbed the offices of the National Enterprise for Industrial Marketing (ENCI) in Magdalena District in a neighborhood of Lima. After immobilizing the watchmen, they took the safe away in a car.

Interior Minister Luis Percovich said yesterday in Huancayo, 300 km southeast of Lima, that it is appropriate to talk with the Shining Path despite the fact that the Shining Path only talks with weapons. He added that antisubversive forces will be reequipped soon so that they may fulfill their mission.

PRESIDENT ON ROLE OF MILITARY, PROSCRIPTIONS

PY131235 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces do not want to be politicized and do not want party membership to play any role in the promotion or assignment of members of the Armed Forces. There is a tendency to depict as martyrs those who stole and killed on behalf of sedition. These remarks were made by President Gregorio Alvarez during an audience he granted to the three department intendants whose party memberships were cancelled by the Colorado Party. President Alvarez added that the Armed Forces want to devote themselves to their professional duties, and that they do not want to be the armed branch of the oligarchy, or of personal or sectarian interests. Addressing the Paysandu, Rocha, and Artigas intendants, Walter Belvisi, Milton de los Santos, and Basilio Borgato, respectively, the president said:

[Begin recording] Mr Basilio Borgato, intendant of Artigas Department; Mr Walter Belvisi, intendant of Paysandu Department; Mr Milton de los Santos, intendant of Rocha Department: I have summoned you in the wake of a decision made by the Colorado Party which, by means of a subtly distorted interpretation, has proscribed the three of you. The people who made this decision are the same ones who, on other occasions, have demanded the lifting of all proscriptions in our country. It is a paradox that those who advocate pluralism should proscribe those who disagree with them.

It is also a paradox that those who expect to rule over the country should adopt foreign solutions, failing to recall that the restoration of Uruguayan democracy is a task to be undertaken by Uruguayans, with Uruguayan ideas. You are very well aware that we are going through a very important state, in which we are witnessing a change in traditional ethical values, in which we are risking loosing our tradions. In effect, those who once marred the prestige of our institutions and undermined public confidence by creating a breeding ground for sedition, today attempt to return as the saviours of democracy. There are some who want to depict those traitors, those who killed and stole on behalf of the seditious Tupamaros movement, as martyrs. We are going through a very important stage as we approach the state of law, whose restoration has been the permanent goal of the government and the Armed Forces.

As you already know, the Armed Forces want to be regarded and used as a professional institution. They do not want to be again the armed branch of oligarchies, or sectarian or personal interests, or an antistrike force, no matter which side may be right. That is why we have establihsed conciliation and arbitration as mechanisms for settling disputes, in response to an old constitutional principle. That is why we want the COSENA National Security Council] to be a specialized advisory organ for the executive branch for security and sovereignty issues. That is why we want neither politicization within the Armed Forces nor decisions on promotions or assignments of officers to be made on the basis of party membership or support. [end recording]

Sanguinetti Slams Speech

PY141350 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Colorado Party Secretary General Julio Maria Sanguinetti tonight replied to a speech that the president of the Republic delivered yesterday. Sanguinetti, who regarded the presidential speech as an attack against his party, said that President Alvarez has interfered in the internal affairs of the Colorado Party as no president has ever done before:

[Begin recording] Uruguayan people: In my capacity as Colorado Party secretary general, today I feel compelled to answer the attack that the president of the Republic directed against our party yesterday, interfering in the internal affairs of the party as no president has ever done before. We do not want to sideline the Armed Forces or politicize their internal life. We respect their professionalism. We have always respected it. We respect their professionalism. But the Armed Forces will have to be subordinated to the elected government. The Armed Forces cannot be autonomous, because no country in the world has that sort of Armed Forces. This would be incompatible with democracy. The commanders in chief and the generals must be designated in keeping with constitutional principles. This does not involve the politicization of the Army, but the subordination of the Armed Forces, as even the national anthem puts it, to the civilian government elected by the people.

In addition, contrary to what President Alvarez stated, the Armed Forces have never been the armed branch of an oligarchy. We categorically reject this erroneous idea, which comes from the seditious movement that is being allegedly pursued. The Armed Forces obeyed constitutional governments in the past and they will have to do the same in the future. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT: DEMOCRATIZATION IRREVERSIBLE

PY141410 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Through a message broadcast over a radio and television network, the government and the Armed Forces have stated that the return of the institutions to their normal status is irreversible. They added that their determination to no longer allow disorder, anarchy, violence, and fratricidal struggles is also irreversible. They reiterated that they made every effort to ensure the full restoration of democracy, and expressed their surprise at the attitude of those who claim to represent the will of the people, but who have hindered the attainment of the above objective with actions and omissions.

The government and the Armed Forces recalled that the future of the Republic and the people is at stake, and wondered whether there is actually an intention of maintaining the traditional parties in operation or whether there is a plan to pave the way for a totalitarian party to assume power. They concluded by saying that the time has come for politicians to clearly make known their intentions, so that once the objectives have been set, the much expected normalization may be achieved.

INTERIOR MINISTER ON NEW POLITICAL PLAN

PY131732 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpts] It has been learned that the Armed Forces will present a new political plan to political parties. This was announced at noon today by Interior Minister General Julio Cesar Rapella, who stated that the unity of political parties can accelerate talks and obtain positive results. Rapella also said that other persons and parties may be proscribed. He reaffirmed that the ban on the Communist Party will not be reconsidered and that the situation of the Socialist Party is under study.

The interior minister added that there are points which the Armed Forces will not negotiate. Regarding the 1 May demonstration, he said that it will be authorized and that it will be held in front of the legislative palace. He also said that security measures adopted on 2 August [year not given] will not be lifted.

LUSINCHI ASKS CONGRESS FOR SPECIAL POWERS

PA130507 Paris AFP in Spanish 1845 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Caracas, 12 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today asked Congress for special powers to reorganize the public administration and set new norms for austerity and the reactivation of the private sector.

The new powers will permit Lusinchi to circumvent parliamentary debates on the implementation of a good portion of his plan to rid national production of its "straight-jacket" and to conserve capital for payment of the external debt, which exceeds $34 billion.

The congress will grant the powers promptly in view of the comfortable majority enjoyed in the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies by Democratic Action (AD), the government's social democratic party.

In a 17-page speech, televised to the nation, President Lusinchi presented his draft bill requesting a total of 19 measures to:

-- Refinance the debts of the agricultural producers with the banks, obtaining minimum 3-year grace periods.

-- Create a food basket for needy families. This program will benefit, gradually by regions, and according to the number of children, some 900,000 poor families; that is one-fourth of the nation's population.

-- Increase by 10 percent the number of persons employed in the private sector.

-- Create a dining facilities program for industrial workers.

-- Create a 100-bolivares transportation bonus (10 percent of the minimum wage) for workers with low wages (less than 3,000 bolivares).

-- Limit for 2 years the distribution of dividends and [word indistinct] public administration.

-- Reduce by 10 percent the wages of public sector workers earning over 16,000 bolivares. This will mainly affect oil industry executives.

-- Issue public debt bonds to pay off state suppliers and contractors.

-- Reconcile or cancel debts among state agencies, which amount to 24 billion bolivares ($3.2 billion).

-- Amend laws in order to increase taxes on tobacco, alcohol, tax stamps, and the granting of visas.

Venezuela, Lusinchi said, is suffering from an unprecedented crisis, which began in the 5-year constitutional term that had access to the greatest amount of resources. [passage indistinct]

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON CUBAN INCIDENT

PA140442 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Interview with Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul, by Luis Alfredo Gomez; on 13 April, place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Gomez] Mr Foreign Minister, the French foreign minister has requested a joint French and Contadora Group action to eliminate the mines from the Nicaraguan ports. What is your opinion regarding this request?

[Morales Paul] The Contadora Group has received no request regarding this; once it does, it will issue a statement.

[Gomez] Mr Foreign Minister, the Cuban issue is going around in a vicious circle. That country believes that anyone who violently enters the diplomatic mission violates the Cuban immigration laws and is therefore not eligible for asylum and is described as a political refugee [as heard].

[Morales Paul] The right to asylum is a right included in the principles of international law and of relations [word indistinct] Latin America. Many of these rules were (?born) in Cuba. We do not interpret this as though they have taken another stance, or that they have requested that the rules of the game be changed, since the rules were agreed to peacefully.

[Gomez] They must have changed their stance because they have refused to grant visas to some of the refugees already at our embassy in Havana.

[Morales Paul] I am not aware of any statement made by Cuba against the right to asylum, nor am I aware of this being the Cuban Government's stance.

[Gomez] How does this new incident at the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba affect relations between the two countries?

[Morales Paul] We are investigating the incident, and it would be premature to make a statement at this time.

PRICE OF SULFUROUS RESIDUAL FUEL INCREASES

PA140451 Paris AFP in Spanish 1606 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] CARACAS, 13 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuela has increased the price of a barrel of residual fuel with a high sulfur content by 50 cents, the state-owned Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc., announced today. The increase will be effective as of tomorrow.

A barrel of residual fuel with a 2.2-percent sulfur content will now cost $27.58, while a barrel of residual fuel with a 2.8-percent sulfur content will cost $26.71.

Venezuela sells approximately 280,000 barrels of sulfurous residual fuels a day.

BRIEFS

NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL -- Hector Zerpa Arcas has been designated Attorney General of the Republic of Venezuela. [Summary] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 31 Mar 84 pp 2-1 PA]

FOREIGN SECRETARY HITS NICARAGUAN PORT MINING

PA131854 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1827 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Apr (EFE) -- Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda today criticized the "mining" of the Nicaraguan ports and said that his country views with sympathy any effort aimed at "eliminating any warlike action against Nicaragua."

The military escalation in Nicaragua, which the foreign secretary said is not only caused by the mining, but also by a "larger number of counterrevolutionaries and more arms alien to the region," is a matter of concern to all Latin America.

U.S. Actions Condemned

FL130012 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1915 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- The Mexican press today described U.S. President Ronald Reagan's order to mine Nicaraguan waters as an act of war. The press also emphasized world public opinions's unanimous repudiation of this action.

The daily newspaper EL SOL DE MEXICO stated that even the United Kingdom, which has always described itself as the United States' great ally, has joined the collective rejection of this action. This alliance could not be more justified because it is in condemnation of an action which approaches a superpower crime.

EL SOL DE MEXICO stated that praetorian abuses and acts of war such as the mining of Nicaragua's territorial waters deserve more than philosophical condemnation, and that, in view of these actions, the world should revise international laws to reflect crimes committed by the superpowers.

EL DIA newspaper states that U.S. willingness to overstep norms -- agreed upon by the international community -- that govern relations between nations appears to be limitless.

In reference to the mining of Nicaraguan ports, EL DIA said that the worst predictions of what the U.S.'s attitude toward this area would be, have come true. The predictions emphasized the U.S.'s rashness in choosing the path it followed for seeking a solution to the Central American conflict and its deafness to the call for noninterference being expressed by most of the international community.

EL DIA added that the United States relies on imposing its own solutions -- militarily -- and on using imperialistic guerrilla expanisionism with the intention of subjugating the peoples.

EL DIA ended by stating that the future could not look more glum for the Central American and Caribbean nations because, unless something unforeseen happens in the next few months, these nations will see themselves involved in a war of incalculable consequences.

COSTA RICA

MONGE TERMS NEUTRALITY SOLE MEANS OF SALVATION

PA141649 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has reiterated our country's neutrality regarding other nation's conflicts, and added that Costa Rica's foremost task is to preserve peace. Monge also said: In this historic time that we are passing through, neutrality is the motto we should adopt, and all our actions should reflect this sole means of salvation. Monge made this declaration this morning during a speech on the occasion of the 128th anniversary of Juan Santamaria's feast. The event was held in front of the monument to the national hero in Alajuelo Province. He said: Peace is our glory, and I want still another glory for Costa Rica. This glory will ensure all hands for the homeland, every support for the family, and all resources for the government. Later, Monge said: Costa Rica's current and foremost need is to preserve peace. The best efforts of the government over which I preside are aimed at this. Monge stressed: We are neutral, although we consistently repudiate all types of tyranny, dictatorship, and totalitarian ideologies.

Our people would like to erase armed confrontation from the face of the world, but we don't shy away from such a commitment when it is necessary to defend our honor, independence, and democratic traditions. This is confirmed by the significant monument to the heroes of the Battle of 1856. A nation is great when it is free and makes freedom the cornerstone of its historical development. To pay respectful and permanent homage to our heroes is to keep alive our determination to bravely forge our destiny and remember that the Costa Rican people were not born to become vessels or serfs of any foreign power. For the Costa Rican people, man's dignity is not negotiable and is not subject to political party interests.

In a small corner of Central America, great and glorious events are occurring right this moment that deserve the admiration of powerful nations. The Costa Rican people, modest, hard-working, harmless to those who do not harm them, suddenly rise like a colossus, defeat and strike terror in the hearts of the proud legions of men who threaten them, and finally extend their hands to neighboring peoples so they can recover freedom.

Monge concluded: We hope this example of [words indistinct] can be appreciated and proclaimed as it deserves throughout Latin America and that rulers emulate, under similar circumstances, the virtuous Costa Rican president, who was fearsome like Washington in war and magnanimous like Washington in peace.

MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED ON NICARAGUAN BORDER

USSR Ships' Alleged Role

PA150544 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Soviet frigates have landed Sandinist People's Army [EPS] soldiers on a Costa Rican beach according to reliable sources. They have reported that three Soviet frigates with Nicaraguan soldiers on board have been sailing in Costa Rican territorial waters in the vicinity of Barra del Colorado. It was reported that they are carrying more than 1,500 men to attack forces in San Juan del Sur [as heard], which is believed to be in the hands of Pastora's [leader of the Revolutionary Democratic Alliance] men.

This information was supplied by officials who [words indistinct] to control the difficult situation that has to be faced, with the knowledge that ships are carrying soldiers who will attack from Costa Rican territory. In this situation [words indistinct] it is very possible that there will be wounded, according to the reports received from Barra del Colorado, or more precisely [words indistinct] the Red Cross is being advised to install [words indistinct] the wounded and the immigration personnel and CORAPARE [not further identified] to thoroughly study what could happen.

According to reports, the Soviet frigates landed Nicaraugan personnel who will be used to attack from Costa Rica Pastora's forces, who are reportedly holding the port of San Juan del Sur [as heard] in Nicaragua.

Government Reinforces Border

PA151746 Paris AFP in Spanish 1649 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 15 Apr (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government has sent military reinforcements to the Atlantic sector of its border with Nicaragua, where Sandinists and anti-Sandinists have engaged in bitter fighting since Tuesday, Costa Rican Vice Security Minister Johnny Campos has announced in San Jose. We will not allow ships from either side of the conflict to enter our territory, the minister said. He revealed that a patrol boat has been sent for this purpose to Barra del Colorado, in Costa Rica's northeastern tip.

The Civil Guard "is maintaining a strict watch" on the border, said Colonel Oscar Vidal who rejected anti-Sandinist reports that Nicaraguan official troops are operating in Costa Rican waters in the Caribbean. He characterized such reports as "fantastic." Barra del Colorado is a small island on the Caribbean, 20 km from the mouth of the bordering San Juan River where the town of San Juan del Norte is located.

Spokesmen for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] yesterday said that ships of the Sandinist government "have tried to reach San Juan del Norte" leaving from Costa Rican waters but "they have been repelled" by Pastora's men, who seized the town.

REPORTAGE ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE CASUALTIES

Wounded Nicaraguans Expected

PA141622 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Deputy Public Security Minister Johnny Campos has said that he learned about the imminent arrival in Costa Rica of at least 100 Nicaraguans who have been wounded in clashes taking place in San Juan del Norte in Nicaragua. In view of these reports, Costa Rican medical authorities -- mainly in Ciudad Quesada's hospital -- are taking the necessary measures to cope with the situation.

Campos also said that he noted in talks with Sandinist authorities that Costa Rica has not promoted the attacks on San Juan del Norte. He explained to them that supplies for (?ARDE) [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] forces are being sent to them [words indistinct] via the San Juan River or through [words indistinct].

ARDE Members Treated in Quesada

PA131718 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] San Carlos (Costa Rica), 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Twelve wounded persons -- one of whom has since died -- arrived last night and early this morning at the social security hospital in Quesada, Costa Rica, near the Nicaraguan border. Local Red Cross spokesmen who received the Nicaraguans in Boca Tapada said that all the Nicaraguans belong to the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), led by Eden Pastora, better known as "Commander Cero."

While the Nicaraguans received attention at the health center in Quesada, Red Cross members near the border requested ambulances to transfer more wounded Nicaraguans. The victims claim to have participated in the attack on San Juan del Norte, where both sides have suffered hundreds of casualties, especially those defending the city and the port. The Red Cross directorate announced that it has called a state of alert at eight of its posts located along the zone bordering with the battle front between the ARDE columns and the Sandinist People's Army (EPS).

CHACON: FEAR PROMPTS NICARAGUAN LEADER'S CHARGES

PA152314 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2139 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Enrique Chacon, deputy government minister of Costa Rica, today said that Nicaraguan Commander Daniel Ortega's attack on him in Managua "denotes a lack of security and fear." Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, said the "CIA" is supported in Costa Rica "and by some Costa Ricans who receive dollars" to attack Nicaragua. Among the accused, he (Ortega) noted that "a deputy minister named Chacon openly defends his complicity with the counterrevolution."

Deputy Minister Chacon told newsmen that what Commander Ortega said "is incredible," that it would seem he is overcome by the fear of what is coming, and that he is "being ridiculous." These charges, he added, "denote a lack of security, a lack of consistency and political maturity...and fear." "Mr Ortega is probably noticing the tread of a large animal, and he is apparently preparing for who knows what."

Regarding the charge that he was receiving U.S. dollars to favor the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), Chacon said that this charge has been made before by local Communist leader Manuel Mora, who was ousted by his own party because of his senility. "From Ortega the charge is ridiculous, out of the fear that overcomes him and pushes him to seek someone to blame for his failures," he added.

CAPTURE OF FISHING BOATS PROTESTED TO NICARAGUA

PA140158 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0127 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez today sent a note to the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry over the actions of a Sandinist patrol boat that captured two Costa Rican fishing boats.

Even though the boats were returned this morning, 24 hours after their capture, the foreign minister stated that "these grave events" contradict what was said by "His Excellency Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction" in his letter dated 6 April that he sent to Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge. The paragraph in Ortega's letter to which Gutierrez referred said:

"It is a pleasure for me to reiterate that the policy of the Government of National Reconstruction is cohesive and unambiguous, and that it manifests itself in the desire and intention to develop and maintain a relationship of the utmost friendship and cooperation with your people and government, to whom we are linked by strong bonds of history and fraternity."

While denouncing and protesting the actions carried out by the Nicaraguan Government, the Costa Rican foreign minister added his "gratitude that the boats and their crewmen were returned so quickly."

EL SALVADOR

ASSEMBLY APPROVES ELECTORAL LAW MODIFICATIONS

PA141603 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0516 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly tonight approved modifications to the Electoral Law, which include the elimination of the voters list for the runoff presidential elections scheduled for 6 May. The draft bill was presented by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), which will be running against the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in the runoff, because they were the two parties that obtained the largest percentage of votes in the 25 March elections.

In the coming runoff, citizens can present their personal identification cedulas to the election officials at any designated polling place. The distribution of cedulas will be suspended 15 days before the date of the runoff and the board of inspectors [consejo de vigilancia] will be composed solely of persons designated by the two rival parties. The election officials will be stationed at the places designated by the municipal boards according to a plan established previously by the Central Electoral Council, with the participation of the two rival parties.

Hugo Carrillo, deputy for the National Conciliation Party, which came in third in the percentage of votes cast on 25 March, said that the elimination of the voters list "does not signify that the register of citizens has been eliminated." He pointed out that there were some difficulties on 25 March that kept many citizens from voting because of the requirement that a person had to vote in a specific polling place.

Council Threatens Resignation

PA142023 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] We learned this morning that all members of the Central Electoral Council including the president have said that the amendments introduced in the temporary electoral law through the Legislative Assembly are considered to be a mockery of the Salvadoran people.

Council members have said it is possible that all of them will resign because they have nothing to do. This is part of a report given us by sources close to the electoral system. The Central Electoral Council expresses its stance to the people:

1. We have analyzed the irregularities in the 25 March elections in order to correct them so that the Salvadoran people can vote on 6 May with the highest possible guarantee of freedom and purity of elections.

2. Such anomalies are the results of the implementation of a system that guarantees elections free from all fraud and assures that citizens will vote only once. The system needs to be perfected so that everyone can vote.

3. These guarantees are best safeguarded through an electoral registry and a listing that will allow for the detection of frauds. These will prevent impositions that might occur when certain groups of citizens are forced to cast their votes in a specific polling place.

4. As a result of the Legislative Assembly's decision to eliminate the citizens' listings -- an essential part of the electoral registry -- as part of the coming electoral process, the Central Electoral Council cannot take responsibility for the purity of the electoral process. Consequently, the council feels that in all patriotic honesty to the Salvadoran people, the council cannot guarantee the purity of the elections, as it should have been able to, had there been an electoral listing with corrections and improvements. This is essential for democratization, on which peace and the economic rebirth of our country depends.

The Central Electoral Council members are meeting all day today. It is possible that they may resign today or tomorrow. They have reported that if they do not resign during these two days, they will next week, namely, on Monday, since the Legislative Assembly also has to participate in the decision.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA VICTORES RETURNS FROM TRIP TO MIAMI

PA131643 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1603 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Guatemala, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- It was reported in the capital today that General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, last night returned from the United States after spending 6 days in Miami.

General Mejia Victores' trip -- which he unexpectedly initiated last Saturday -- was described by his spokesmen as "a rest trip," although none of them knew the date on which he would return. Official spokesman Ramon Zelada Carrillo told ACAN-EFE that Mejia Victores arrived in this capital in a Guatemalan Government airplane at 2030 at the La Aurora military airport.

The head of state had been accompanied on this trip by Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade; the chief of staff of the presidency, Colonel Pablo Nuila Hub, and the official Army spokesman, Colonel Edgar Dominguez.

Mejia Victores' unexpected trip, as well as the uncertainty over the date of his return, surprised Guatemalans, because in addition to this there had been rumors about the reasons for his having left the country.

Some political circles said that Mejia Victores went to the United States for medical examinations, and others spoke of "some instability within his government," but these rumors were denied when government spokesmen said that Mejia went to "rest in Miami, at the invitation of a U.S. friend."

Discusses U.S. Visit

PA141835 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] General Oscar Mejia Victores, Guatemalan head of state, discussed the Guatemalan economic, political, and institutional situation during his meeting with U.S. State Department officials and congressmen in Miami. Mejia, whose trip lasted 6 days, returned to Guatamala last night. At a press conference today, accompanied by Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade, who also accompanied Mejia to Miami, Mejia described the talks he held as friendly conversations with people who can believe in us, and regretted that his trip, officially described as one of rest, might have become controversial.

Mejia said that in addition to resting for some days, he had the opportunity to talk with several U.S. officials and to explain the country's needs. Mejia said that what counts is to understand what is happening in Guatemala. He added that he is not ill and that, should he have to undergo a medical checkup, he would do it in Guatemala because he has full confidence in Guatemalan physicians. He said this because some rumors held that he visited the United States for health reasons. Quite the contrary, he went fishing at Miami beaches and had a few drinks.

Andrade reported that he participated in a forum along with other Central American foreign ministers. Some 400 Central American and U.S. businessmen participated in the forum. Andrade explained to the participants the nature of the political opening in Guatemala that will lead to elections for a constituent assembly on 1 July. Andrade said he invited U.S. congressmen and senators to attend the Guatemalan elections. Regarding recent events in Central America and, particularly, the planting of mines in Nicaraguan waters, Andrade said that Guatemala upholds the principle of free navigation, and anything affecting it violates accepted standards.

HONDURAS

CONGRESS DISCUSSES LETTER FROM GENERAL ALVAREZ

PA130705 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The National Congress today discussed the letter sent to the deputies by General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez [former chief of the Armed Forces] from Miami, where he currently resides. The letter details the manner in which he was summoned by his comrades-in-arms and sent into exile. General Alvarez wants to leave the Armed Forces with the full honors due a good soldier.

[Begin unidentified person recording] I wish to state for the record that on two occassions today the ambassador accredited to the distinguished Costa Rican Government sent me a verbal message from the so-called High Command warning me not to make any statements because I am an officer on active duty and have not been authorized to make statements.

In other circumstances, as a professional, obedient soldier, I would have obeyed the order, if it had come from the legitimate High Command.

However, in the present circumstances, I am still the legitimate chief of the Armed Forces, and therefore the top organizational authority of the institution. In this regard, I am the institution's spokesman. I give orders to my subordinates; I do not receive orders from them. Moreover, they wish to force me to remain silent, which would be tantamount to admitting that I have betrayed the Constitution and been disloyal to the president of the Republic, extreme actions to which I will never admit, because they are untrue and blemish my honor as a soldier and a citizen. History will judge in due time those responsible for this shameful act, which has also harmed me personally. [end recording]

ALVAREZ REPORTEDLY COMMANDS PARALLEL ARMY

PA130455 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1533 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A high-level Honduran political figure today told ACAN-EFE that General Gustavo Alvarez, former commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces who was dismissed 13 days ago, has a parallel army of 25,000 armed men at his command. "General Alvarez started to organize these militias some 6 months ago, when tension started to grow among the Armed Forces," the source added. The source identified himself to ACAN-EFE but asked that his name be withheld for "personal security" reasons.

He added that "both the Honduran Government and the Armed Forces are aware that Alvarez has this secret organization; that is why they are maintaining the same extreme security measures adopted the day Alvarez was dismissed." The source, who is closely linked to the main Honduran economic and political sectors, asserted that he had personally seen "classified documents on the arrival of light and medium weapons in the country without the usual military controls."

Government sources questioned by ACAN-EFE in this concern said "they have absolutely no information" about the situation and refused to comment on the report. General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez is currently in Miami, where he arrived after being dismissed from his post as commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces on 30 March following a military action. During the weekend Gustavo Alvarez met with a delegation of the Association for the Development of Honduras, APROH, an organization he still presides over and which comprises the most important economic sectors in the country, in addition to union, student, and labor groups.

NICARAGUA

DANIEL ORTEGA DISCUSSES REBELS, U.S., COSTA RICA

PA151843 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0045 GMT 15 Apr 84

["Face the People" program with Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Junta Member Sergio Ramirez Mercado; Captain Jose Antonio Sanjinez, chief of the Directorate of Cadres of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS); Otilia Jaen, member of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women, AMNLAE, Committee of the 14 June Neighborhood; and other government and FSLN officials, at the Alexis Blandon Normal School in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] This confrontation that we face everyday, which imposes a constant sacrifice on the people of Nicaragua, must be seen as a continuation of the struggle, the struggle that was initiated from the moment that our country began to be dominated by imperialism.

The activities of imperialism are very clear. It is trying to show that in Nicaragua we have an internal rebellion by the people, as if it were a problem among Nicaraguan people who are killing each other. There are some here within our country who identify with the imerpialist positions. However, who can be mistaken when the situation of aggression that Nicaragua is experiencing, the warlike situation that Nicaragua is experiencing, has its hottest points along the border areas? What does this mean? What does it demonstrate?

It demonstates that counterrevolutionary activity comes from neighboring countries, where the United States has set up camps to continually attack our country. We can speak of areas here where fighting is constant, in the northern area of our country, the Departments of Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, and Northern Zelaya, even on the border area of Chinandega Department. These are areas where we are being attacked continuously.

It is no coincidence that counterrevolutionary attacks also come from the other side of the Costa Rican border. In this case these are combined with the Somozist guards, the traitors combined with the Somozist guards. They are instruments of the U.S. Government. They are mercenaries at the service of the U.S. Government.

There is also fighting on the border area, in the area of the Rio San Juan Department. There is also fighting in the area of Penas Blancas. There have already been situations of aggression by the counterrevolution from Coata Rica in the area of Penas Blancas. There is currently a coordinated military offensive we have said, "the strongest ever by the U.S. Government, pushing in from the north, from Honduras, in the Departments of Nueva Segovia, Jinotega, and Northern Zelaya, and also from the south, in Rio San Juan Department.

There are points that have become famous. Jalapa, for instance, is a place the counterrevolution has always tried to capture. Teotecacinte is another famous place. There are places that are becoming better known, such as La Tronquera, Guaspan. There are some places, like Guaspan, where there is no population. These are military areas where people once lived.

In the southern area a port existed, let us say several centuries ago, but the Port of San Juan del Norte ceased to exist a long time ago. Only military positions are there. There is no population. These are border areas that are pressured so much by counterrevolutionary activity that we have preferred to move the population to other places and left only military areas there.

The counterrevolution is always making a lot of propaganda about taking this or that place, giving the impression to the world that it is conquering towns. What is really happening is fighting. Now much noise is being made about the fighting in northern Nicaragua. They claim to have inflicted 300 casualties on us here, 300 more there, inflicting thousands of casualties on us in a matter of days, according to their communiques. They claim to have taken towns. They have gone so far as to claim taking the town of Waslala, a claim which is completely false. This was a counterrevolutionary incursion that did not penetrate beyond the outskirts of Waslala, where the peasants organized in militias repelled them.

Now they are making a big noise about San Juan del Norte, a port that is hard on the border with Costa Rica. From here the counterrevolution has launched an offensive ordered by the CIA. The offensive coincides with the arrival of a U.S. frigate at a Costa Rican port that is only a few kilometers from there, a port called Puerto Limon. This is something that I cannot believe was by chance. We also describe this area as a combat zone. In all these combat zones we are fighting with great heroism, and in accordance with the capacity and degree of organization of our people we have been able to stop this counterrevolutionary offensive.

The United States has launched several offensives of this type against us, and we have been able to destroy them. We can say today that this new offensive will also be destroyed. We have already begun to do so in these various areas.

However, it is not an easy struggle; it is not a struggle against the former Somozist guardsmen or against the traitors -- if this were the case we would have eliminated them very quickly -- but against a power called the United States; a power that has used Honduras to launch the aggression and that has also used Costa Rica and some Costa Rican citizens, who have received dollars from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency -- there are even some Costa Rican Government officials, such as a Costa Rican deputy minister called Chacon [Enrique Chacon, Costa Rican deputy government minister] who openly defend involvement with the counterrevolution, jeopardizing the Costa Rican Government's principle of neutrality. At this moment the attacks being launched from Costa Rica are completely open, with logistical support coming from Costa Rica, with the support of those people getting dollars from the CIA and mocking the efforts of the Costa Rican Government to protect its neutrality. The United States is pressuring, even blackmailing, these governments, using their economic crises as a means to involve them in the aggression against Nicaragua.

Then where does Nicaragua stand? We are a small country with a poor and limited economy that we are trying to develop. A country trying to provide social benefits for all the people, but we are being attacked by the United States from out two borders. Where does that leave our other borders? The borders to the sea? These borders have not escaped imperialist aggression. How is this aggression carried out? They attack with boats supplied by the CIA, and they also attack with the mines they have placed in our ports.

A U.S. Government official, a man from the State Department whose name I cannot remember, John Hughes I think, said 3 days ago -- a big discussion has been going on in the United States, and the U.S. Senate has condemned the mining of the ports; the U.S. Senate condemns this action but there are people right here in this country who do not; and the U.S. Government is now trying to wash its hands of this criminal action -- he said that 2 weeks ago the CIA stopped placing mines in the Nicaraguan ports and that they had placed up to 600 mines. He defended the U.S. Government's right to mine Nicaraguan ports. Have you any idea what 600 mines in Nicaraguan ports means? And this surely means that there are still mines in our ports. With actions such as these they are affecting the Nicaraguan people as well as international traffic. They are jeopardizing all the ships coming into Nicaragua with merchandise. They are harming the economy of the Nicaraguan people.

So what do we have? U.S. military pressure from Honduras, from Costa Rica, and on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. What is this? A military cordon around Nicaragua. Nicaragua is a country militarily surrounded by the U.S. Government -- a country surrounded by that power that is called the United States, because they want us to surrender.

[Mutil Ramis] Good evening, companeros of the junta, members of the assembly, companeros all. My name is Mario Mutil Ramos and I live in the Riguero neighborhood. Will the personnel of the patriotic military service have days off to go home, and for how long? This question is asked by the mother and the brother of the mobilized person Ramon Montiel.

[Sanjinez] I understand your question, Companero Ramos, because this week I attended different meetings in different neighborhoods, and I know why you ask that.

When the first group went from registration to recruitment 3 months ago, some companeros told their families that at the end of the 3-month training they would get an 8-day pass to spend with their families. I believe this is what you are referring to? That is it. However, I believe that no one could foresee the situation that would exist 3 months later, the situation we are experiencing right now.

When we reach a calmer state, and we hope we will achieve it through the political initiative of our government and other actions, they will have their passes. However, I believe that it would be counterproductive to repeat what they were told when they were called up, that is, that at the end of the 3-month training period they will get an 8-day pass. I believe that it is more prudent and more sincere with all of you to tell you that they will get their chance. However, due to the fact that we ourselves do not know the enemy's attack plans, I would not like to say things that will later make us look like liars. Rather, we tell you that yes, you will have your pass, it will be possible to visit, you will have your correspondence, you will have your permanent units, all according to the limitations imposed by the enemy's attacks and as soon as possible.

[(Serroy)] Good evening, companeros. My name is (Liris Serroy), from the Central America neighborhood. I have a son in the Patriotic Military Service [SMP]. What is the importance of the SMP for the nation's defense?

[Ramirez] We must remember that at the present time very few countries are waging such a war, which is not just any war against four counterrevolutionaries, but a war against the United States. The United States is a world military power and a country with huge economic resources. The United States has brought its borders to Honduras. Therefore, we are fighting directly against the United States. The only thing missing in this war is U.S. soldiers at the front. Otherwise, the [word indistinct], the arms, the uniforms, the bombs, the planes, the helicopters, the vehicles, the money -- everything is from the United States.

The SMP is not dependent on the EPS, but is rather an integral part of the EPS. The best contribution that Nicaragua can make -- the best contribution that the homeland can make to the defense of this nation -- is the participation of the youth of the SMP. This is why this is a patriotic service. Without a doubt, we could say that this country could not defend its revolution and its sovereignty without the participation of the youth. This participation is political support for the revolution. This is a war of a whole nation against foreign intervention.

[Lila Arrocha] Good evening companeros of the Government Junta, good evening invited German guests, companeros all. Ny name is Aura Lila Arrocha. I live in Ciudad Sandino, Zone 8. What measures will the Government Junta take with the boys of Managua who do not want to be mobilized and the boys who desert or go home without permission? I also appeal to the mothers to raise the morale of their sons, to be conscious of the situation that we are facing.

[Ortega] The measures that the revolutionary government must take regarding problems, faults, disrespect, and so forth, was explained by Companero Sergio Ramirez. He said that the military service is not a unique phenomenon in Nicaragua. The United States has had [compulsory] military service, but it was not to defend the United States from foreign aggressors. For example, at the time of Vietnam, U.S. youths were forced to go and invade a country that was thousands of kilometers from the United States.

The U.S. leaders were very strict back then in the enforcement of the law. There were cases where a just attitude existed, because it was just to rebel against that type of service. It was one thing to have [compulsory] military service if the United States were being attacked or invaded, in which case the U.S. Government had the obligation to demand that U.S. youths fight to defend their country, rather than trying to demand that U.S. youths go to invade a country that was thousands of kilometers away, a country that was not an enemy of the United States, but rather the United States was the enemy of the other country. However, what happened? It enforced the law and there were many cases of imprisoned youths.

Here, we are not calling on the Nicaraguan people, the revolution is not calling on the SMP, to go and invade a neighboring country. We are calling on the youths and all the people to defend our country, Nicaragua, to defend the country's sovereignty, the revolution, the interests that were seized. Therefore, in this case we have to be demanding and we must make these demands through conscience and the law.

We have two weapons to fight the counterrevolution that opposes the SMP, which wants to attack us while we keep our arms crossed, without defending ourselves. What are these weapons? Conscience and revolutionary law. We have these two weapons. There are some journalists here who are campaigning. They are not even Nicaraguan citizens. Rather, they were born in Nicaragua but they are not Nicaraguans. These journalists are campaigning against the SMP. They take pains to interview those who oppose the SMP and to disseminate these statements abroad. However, they do not interview those who favor SMP. We are no longer going to permit the activities of these journalists in this country. These journalists are committing a crime and we are not going to permit it.

[Jaen] My name is Otilia Jaen; I live in the 14 June neighborhood. I am a member of the AMNLAE committee. At this moment when imperialism is attacking the Nicaraguan people in every way and everyone knows that it has mined our seas in order to block the aid that the sister peoples are sending to us, we tell all you hungry dogs, all the Somozists and traitors, that we will be here with rifle in hand, waiting for you to finish you once and for all so that our people can live in peace and quiet. Thank you.

[Ortega] Companera Otilia Jaen of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women made a statement about the mining of the ports and its effects. We have been studying the economic effects that the mining of the ports has created; in other words the effects of the Reagan administration's policy, condemned by the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives -- we hope they will also condemn the policy of permanent mining he has against the people of Nicaragua, because the explosives are placed not only in the waters but are also launched against us by the counterrevolutionaries; attacks come from everywhere. This illegal activity has also been condemned on several occasions by important sectors of the U.S. House of Representatives. Within the U.S. Senate there has been some resistance to condemning this type of policy, and they have been approving those large sums of money to continue the attacks against Nicaragua; however, at this moment there is opposition to this policy; the U.S. people condemn the Reagan administration's policy, because it seems that the Reagan Administration has adopted an aggressive, arrogant, and disrespectful attitude toward the senators and congressmen. It has been learned that if these funds are cut -- if the $21 million to continue attacking Nicaragua is not approved -- then that U.S. Administration, through the CIA and its director, a man named William Casey, will request monetary support from other countries that are allies of the United States and that they believe will become accomplices in this criminal action against Nicaragua.

They are going to request millions from another country. They have mentioned some countries, such as Saudi Arabia. This means that the CIA is going to ask Saudi Arabia for this money if the amount that the Reagan administration has requested is cut by the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

What does this mean for us? We cannot get our hopes up, despite the fact that the U.S. people are condemning this policy and despite the fact that the funds requested by the administration to continue attacking the Salvadoran people were cut -- the administration had requested somewhere between $60 and 90 million but only $35 or 36 million was approved. But it is already being said that the U.S. Administration will draw from Department of Defense funds to continue attacking the Salvadoran people.

Regarding the economic effects, I can report that the early figures we have on the damage caused by the mining of the Nicaraguan ports is as follows: estimated losses for the sinking of five INPESCA [Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries] fishing boats, $2.2 million; estimated losses including the income not received for the use of ports -- ships that should have docked in Corinto but because of the mines did not come in, affecting our exports since these ships bring merchandise to our country and also take out coffee and cotton, which are products on which we depend for immediate sale to receive foreign exchange and to purchase what we do not produce but greatly need -- and the losses to the fishing industry because of the boats that have been sunk equal a total of $4.1 million; we also experienced losses because of the drop in prices when merchandise is delayed, but this estimate is not ready yet. However, the 2 figures I have given you and up to $6.3 million.

Who is the U.S. Government attacking if not the Nicaraguan people? This is only to give you an idea. I was just mentioning the losses we have experienced, but other losses have also been reported. Because of the mines, several ships have been damaged, as was the case of Los Caribes, a NAMUCAR [Caribbean Multinational Shipping Enterprise] ship that suffered damages in the amount of $1.8 million and the Netherlands dredge that suffered damages in the amount of $1 million. This adds up to $2.8 million and when added to the $6.3 million, we find that the U.S. Government, with its mines, has inflicted damage in the amount of $9.1 million. It is a terrorist policy, and this is why we describe it as state terrorism practiced by the U.S. Government against the people of Nicaragua.

Holds Press Conference

PA151721 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1413 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Press conference by Daniel Ortega, Coordinator of the Nicaraguan National Reconstruction Government Junta, following the "Face the People" program at the Alexis Blandon Normal School in Managua on 14 April; questioners not identified -- recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening, Commander Daniel Ortega. We would like to ask you how we should interpret the campaign that has been launched regarding the alleged takeover of San Juan del Norte; regarding what Pastora has said, that he is going to mine the area and that he is not going to allow Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces to come close to it; and regarding the international campaign that has been mounted?

[Ortega] Well, this is part of the aggression mounted by the United States against Nicaragua, and this traitor is only an instrument of this aggression.

The fact that he is talking about laying mines serves merely to reveal him as an agent, a mercenary, and a filibusterer of U.S. imperialism.

An entire campaign has been mounted regarding San Juan del Norte, as if San Juan del Norte were a town, when in reality it is only a military zone. What is taking place there are clashes in a military zone. Logically, we are going to expel those counter-revolutionary forces sent by U.S. imperialism that have entered the country in the past few days, all from the area bordering on Costa Rica. That area is right next to Costa Rica; they have an open corridor there to enter from Costa Rica. The situation there is similar to that which is taking place in Honduras.

Why deceive ourselves? In Costa Rica it has been said that they entered by boat, that Costa Rica has not been used at all. Certain Costa Rican personalities, some Costa Rican officials, would like poeple to believe this, but they have undoubtedly entered by boat via Costa Rica's rivers. They entered Nicaragua via these rivers, which are in Costa Rica.

Communication in that area is via the rivers. So it is true that they entered the country by boat, but from Costa Rica. This is where they have their camps. Their operations center is there, on Barra del Colorado. The operations center of the counterrevolution is right there in the area of Barra del Colorado.

[Reporter] Commander, at the press conference that the members of the general staff of the EPS and the state security forces granted a few days ago, it was said that Nicaragua is facing an ideological struggle as well as a military struggle. Could you tell us what might be the result of this ideological struggle against the Sandinist People's Revolution?

[Ortega] I would say that the main instrument of imperialism [words indistinct] is in the interior of the country. They are trying to manipulate the people's religious feelings. We believe this is the main thing the enemy would like to take advantage of, beginning with the complicity of some church leaders who are completely in agreement with this campaign, who are accomplices of the Reagan administration, and who yearn for the Somozist past.

[Reporter] Commander, some of us newsmen were asking ourselves why Radio Impacto, a counterrevolutionary station that broadcasts from Costa Rica, employs the services of a correspondent who is also a newsman for the newspaper LA PRENSA.

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] are not going to allow this type of [word indistinct] from Nicaragua, by people born in Nicaragua who are working as correspondents for a CIA radio such as this Radio Impacto. We are going to put them in their place, these people who are tying to take advantage of this situation of aggression, who believe that the revolution is weak -- as well as those political sectors in the country who believe that now is the time to pressure the revolution. We are going to show them that the revolution does not accept pressure and we are going to put them in their place. We are going to teach them to respect the law here. [Station announcer mentions that the newsman is presumably Luis Mora, who is correspondent for both Radio Impacto and LA PRENSA]

[Reporter] Commander, do you have any knowledge of the situation in San Juan del Norte? As you said, the counterrevolutionary stations have reported that every day thousands of...

[Ortega, interrupting] As we were explaining, there is constant fighting in the area on the border with Costa Rica, just as there is in the area on the border with Honduras.

The hullaballoo is being raised by the FDN on the Honduran side, and by ARDE on the Costa Rican side. Now they are making a big fuss over the alleged takeover of San Juan del Norte. In the first place, there is no town in the area; it is merely a military zone. Right now there are probably only three structures still standing in what used to be San Juan del Norte, and they are practically falling down. So it is really just a military operations zone.

There is no town or port there to take over. What we are doing there is fighting against the counterrevolutionary forces that have been operating from Costa Rica, who have entered from Costa Rica through the rivers that we share, shall we say, with Costa Rica. They come in by way of the tributaries to the San Juan River, from their bases in different points in Costa Rica. They have a central base in the area of Barra del Colorado. They come in from these rivers to mount their criminal operations against the Nicaraguan people, and they clash with the military forces that we maintain in the area.

[Reporter] Commander, do you have any figures regarding EPS casualties during those 5 days of clashes that Commander [Joaquin] Cuadra mentioned at the press conference?

[Ortega] There is a communications problem in the area. We all know that that area has communications and transportation problems. There is access to the area only by the river, or by air. There are no roads. This is the situation on the Nicaraguan side of the border. On the Costa Rican side, there is a high degree of development in that entire area, and therefore access to that area is much better. The counterrevolutionaries who are in Costa Rica [words indistinct].

This is the result of the abandonment of that entire area during the Somoza dictatorship and the imperialist [words indistinct]. Consequently, we really cannot, at this time, cite exact figures regarding the number of casualties that both we and the counterrevolutionaries have suffered. What we can say, however, is that an entire operation has been prepared to evict the counterrevolutionaries who are operating in this area of the San Juan River.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] counterattack by you now.

[Ortega] You see, we have troops there who have been fighting. We have operations under way there.

[Reporter] Commander, regarding reports that they are taking a large number of their wounded to Costa Rican hospitals, what has the Costa Rican Government said about this situation?

[Ortega] The problem is that in Costa Rica there are some government officials -- and I have mentioned one of them, Deputy [Government] Minister [Enrique] Chacon -- who are quite openly accomplices. These people receive dollars from the CIA and jeopardize Costa Rica's neutrality. This creates a situation of complicity based on CIA dollars, which allows them to operate at leisure from Costa Rica; to openly take their wounded there; to move about in launches; and even to move about in helicopters. From that area they are moving from Costa Rica into Nicaragua.

[Reporter] And what about the mixed commission?

[Ortega] The Costa Rican authorities recently said that the mixed commission will be reactivated. We are hoping that this will happen. All of these incidents are aimed at creating tension in Costa Rican-Nicaraguan relations, and at provoking other situations.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] offered any explanation?

[Ortega] We have already sent the information on all of this situation to the Costa Rican Government; we have sent them the required notes. They replied that they are investigating all of these situations.

[Reporter] Commander, the counterrevolutionary radios have been reporting mass desertions by battalions of the EPS and the Sandinist People's Militia. Some international news agencies have echoed these reports. Do you have any information on any desertions?

[Ortega] These are campaigns -- systematic campaigns. They are continuously mentioning mass desertions. They talk about clashes in which they claim to kill 300 of our fighters here, 300 there, and 1,000 somewhere else. This is plain fantasy, but it is typical in situations of aggression.

I still remember what happened during the invasion of Playa Giron in Cuba. The news dispatches that were being sent were truly alarming. They claimed that all the members of the Cuban Revolutionary Government were either dead or had sought refuge at embassies, that all of the Cuban garrisons had been taken, and that the people had risen up in arms. These reports were managed by imperialism, and the newspaper LA PRENSA published it here in banner headlines just as NOVEDADES [newspaper owned by the Somoza family] did. These reports confused some people, who believed that the Cuban revolution had been wiped out. But the truth prevailed in the end when it was demonstrated that this was all false, merely a campaign in support of an aggressive action. This is the same situation that Nicaragua is facing today.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the military situation has the characteristics of an aggression?

[Ortega] Yes. I would say that this is a military encirclement of Nicaragua, and that is why I compared it to the invasion of Cuba. Although the magnitude, circumstances and context are different, the situation is very grave, and compels us to carry out a large-scale mobilization of the people to face it.

[Reporter] What are the effects on Nicaragua of the changes in the Honduran military structure?

[Ortega] What we have done is to express our willingness to hold a dialogue. This is a firm position, and we have so informed the new Honduran military authorities.

[Reporter] Commander, what are the methods they use to try to set up an internal front not only in Nicaragua, but in Managua, for example?

[Ortega] Well, as we mentioned before, the ultrarightist parties, the sectors of the church that are totally reactionary, enemies of the people and anti-Christians, some church officials who are anti-Christian and who became church leaders under the Somozist government, the capitalists who were born here in Nicaragua but who continue to yearn for a return to the past so that they can continue to exploit the people -- these forces are all joining together within the country to try to foster internal (?destabilizing) conditions to the detriment of the Nicaraguan people and in support of external, aggressive military actions.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the alleged threat by the rightist political parties that they would not participate in the elections unless some conditions were met, along with the statement by [Alfonso] Robelo [ARDE director] setting conditions for them to halt their counterrevolutionary activities?

[Ortega] I believe that this is a totally absurd attitude that does not recognize the reality of what is happening in Nicaragua, or the opportunity to participate that the revolution is giving these parties. It is up to them to join, break away from, or confront the revolutionary process. This process cannot be destroyed, so if they are not willing to coexist with this process, then they will have to clash [chocar] with this process.

[Reporter] Now that this large-scale offensive is under way the rightist parties are once again taking up that old document from COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], which practically asks for the dismantling of the revolution and the holding of a so-called national dialogue. Would you please, commander...

[Ortega, interrupting] These individuals are only responding to instructions from the U.S. Government [5-second break in transmission] Consequently, this is part of the overall plan for aggression. The overall plan is the military aggression: the efforts to shut down the ports; the counterrevolutionary and mercenary forces on the border zones; and the internal front by means of these political groups, which are not nationalistic.

[Reporter] What is the total number of counterrevolutionaries inside the country right now?

[Ortega] According to our lastest estimates, we believe that the total number of men that the counterrevolution has right now -- inside and outside the country, but who are active right now in carrying out the aggression -- exceeds 11,000. This includes forces on the north and south, both forces combined.

Inside the country -- those who are fighting on the border zones, that is -- we can mention some 5,000 or 6,000 men. These are men who are fighting at the border areas, in Las Segovias, Jinotega, Zelaya Norte, and in the Rio San Juan area in Zelaya Sur.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA RETURNS FROM DPRK, USSR VISITS

PA152111 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1738 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Defense Minister Humberto Ortega Saavedra airport press conference upon returning from a visit to the USSR and the DPRK on 15 April; questioners not identified -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] We have just returned from a trip to the fraternal DPRK and the USSR. We received there a reiteration of political, moral, and material solidarity for our revolutionary government and our people, who are currently facing an escalation of aggression directed by the incumbent U.S. Administration. We can describe our meetings with the political leaders of these two countries as positive and fruitful.

Ths trip allows us to tell our people that Nicaragua is continuing to receive the support and solidarity of the countries that we visited in addition to that received from the peoples of Latin America, Europe, and other parts of the world.

[Reporter] What economic or moral aid did the DPRK or the USSR offer?

[Ortega] This is what we have been saying all along: Ever since our people eliminated the Somoza tyranny and became an independent country we have had relations of all types with all the countries of the world.

[Reporter] Did they offer anything more, for example assistance with the current problem of the mining of the ports?

[Ortega] This information will be available after I have duly reported to the Revolutionary Government and the National Directorate.

[Reporter] Regarding the situation in San Juan del Norte, ARDE claims that it has taken the garrison there. Do you know if any fighting is going on there, how many men are fighting on each side, or if they are using fighter aircraft? What do you know?

[Ortega] The important thing is not to lose oneself in San Juan del Norte. Nicaragua's problem is not San Juan del Norte. Nicaragua's problem is the U.S. maneuvers; the dirty war of the U.S. Administration that promotes and [words indistinct] against Nicaragua. Nicaragua cannot be thrown into a crisis by what Eden Pastora does. Nicaragua is preparing to defend itself and is seeking international support, such as that which our Government Junta has announced over the past few days and weeks. This support is not needed to fight Eden Pastora but to face the danger of U.S. intervention and to face the counterrevolutionary gangs that are attacking Nicaragua from Honduras, as well as Pastora's forces operating in the South.

This is mostly a propaganda effort of imperialism, using Pastora as a mouthpiece, to try to divert attention from the serious political and diplomatic setbacks that they have suffered since the criminal mining of the ports and the military escalation they are promoting from Honduras against Nicaragua. This is part of the diversionist propaganda campaign aimed at covering up the defeat of the Reagan administration's Salvadoran policy and covering up the serious political and military crisis that they themselves are facing due to their irresponsible and irrational positions, which are at odds with efforts to find a political, negotiated resolution for the region.

[Reporter] When will the group that attacked this practically deserted settlement in San Juan del Norte be completely evicted?

[Ortega] We will know this very soon, but for obvious reasons we cannot announce in advance the steps that are going to be taken.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SAN JUAN DEL NORTE FIGHTING

ARDE Claims Control

PA131420 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1328 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] In a journalistic effort, Radio Exitosa and its news department were able to monitor Radio Sandino [as heard] early today broadcasting this report from San Juan del Norte. We will now contact Radio Sandino somewhere in Nicaragua.

[Begin relay in progress]...the communists' attack with our antiaircraft artillery. They have fled. In face of our attacks, the FAS [Sandinist Air Force] aviation has fled, we repeat, leaving a destroyed plane in (?swampy) terrain. Our guerrilla columns are already in control of over (?3,000) km of liberated territory.

The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, already has enough resources to repel any attempt by the Cuba-Soviet occupation army and will never retreat [words indistinct] from the area under the control of our revolutionary forces. We repeat: They have failed in two attempts to enter. The Managua communists have roundly failed in their attempts to penetrate our positions. The brigade of Cuban mercenaries is receiving what it deserves, and they will suffer another defeat like the one they suffered at [words indistinct].

Fidel Castro has sent his best trained men, who are murderers and rapists, but our people are responding with [word indistinct] to these interveners, to rescue our original Sandinist revolution, servilely betrayed against our people.

Attention, attention, people of Nicaragua and the world: Thus far the enemy casualties have been numerous, very numerous. As for us, we regret the heroic death of three fighters and five of our brothers have been wounded.

We repeat: communist aviation has been repelled on two occasions, and a FAS plane has crashed, has crashed.

The Cuban interveners, the famous "little hats" [sombreritos] are fleeing in disarray [words indistinct] inside Nacaragua, chased by the freedom forces, the forces led by Commander Eden Pastora Gomez. [words indistinct] [end relay]

ARDE on Cuban Troops

PA131844 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Eden Pastora, of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE], today said that only a small redoubt of Cuban troops continued resisting in the historical town of San Juan del Norte on Nicaragua's southern Atlantic coast. In a telephone conversation, Commander Pastora said that his forces are in complete control of the abandoned Port of San Juan del Norte, which they began to besiege 4 days ago. Pastora said that a mopping up operation is now under way at San Juan and that the last resistance will collapse in a matter of hours. ARDE spokesmen in Costa Rica have reported that only 50 soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army were able to escape the siege by boat on the Indio River.

Meanwhile in Nicaragua, Interior Minister Tomas Borge said at mid-day today that all of Nicaragua is a zone of war, admitting that in past weeks 219 combatants of the Sandinist forces were killed, while 204 were wounded.

Casualties Very High

PA131850 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1732 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Spokesmen for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) have told ACAN-EFE that the columns of Pastora, better known as "Commander Cero," have maintained complete and absolute control over San Juan del Norte since early this morning, when the last remnants of resistance were eliminated. The official figures on the casualties sustained by the forces that endured the attack is not known, but it is estimated that they were very high. Although an inventory of materiel seized has not been completed, the rebels noted that it was substantial and included a large quantity of modern and sophisticated weapons, including surface-to-air "SAM-7" missiles.

A person close to the rebel command told this news agency that the mines that are being placed as a defensive measure in front of San Juan del Norte were recently acquired in Europe. "They are more modern, sophisticated, and effective than the U.S.-made mines, the source told ACAN-EFE. The spokesman had contacted Commander Cero a few minutes earlier by radio and he informed him that very soon he would repeat the mining of the Port of Corinto in the Pacific Ocean with the European mines to create an effective blockade.

The ARDE columns do not fear effective air attacks by the government, as they would have to cross regions that are totally controlled by Commander Pastora, who now has greater antiaircraft resources, including the surface-to-air "SAM-7" missiles. San Juan del Norte is a port at the foot of San Juan Bay, with three routes of access: The Atlantic Ocean, the Indio River, and the bordering San Juan River. ARDE spokesmen announced around the middle of the morning today that Eden Pastora has entered the central part of the Port of San Juan del Norte. Pastora "solemnly" entered the plaza, leading most of the 400 men with whom he attacked the city and port for 72 hours.

Government Denies ARDE Control

PA131911 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Defense Ministry sources this morning denied reports originating from the office operating freely in San Jose, Costa Rica, for the CIA mercenary bands commanded by Pastora stating that his forces had assumed control of the historic town of San Juan del Norte in the Caribbean coast. Our military sources have said that at no time have the counterrevolutionaries entered the small Port of San Juan del Norte. He added that their offensive has been repelled, and that the attackers have been forced to withdraw and have been kept several kilometers away from the town. The group is made up of 400 men under CIA orders who are trying to advance toward the interior of the country. It was reported today from Ciudad Quesada in Costa Rica that several wounded men have arrived in this city fleeing from clashes with Sandinist troops.

ARDE Claims 250 EPS Dead

PA131928 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1848 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 13 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- A spokesman for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] today announced in this capital that 250 members of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) have surrendered in San Juan del Norte to the forces of Eden Pastora in the last phase of the final attack. Orion Elpido Pastora, spokesman for "Commander Cero," said that another 250 Sandinist soldiers were killed during the course of the operation against the city and the port in the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast.

While the rebels made these statements, the Nicaraguan Government at noon today denied in Managua that Eden Pastora's forces had occupied the City of San Juan del Norte on the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast.

According to the ARDE spokesman, Lieutenant Lino Mendoza, the commander of the forces that were defending the plaza, was also killed and was unable to carry out the order not to permit the official garrison to surrender. The ARDE spokesman said that 1500 men led by "Commander Cero" participated in the operation, struggling for eight days in several regions close to San Juan del Norte, and in the 72 hours of fighting during the direct siege on the urban region.

One of the most important facts, according to the ARDE spokesman, was cutting off reinforcements to the soldiers holding the port and having to repel repeated Sandinist air attacks and several attempts to move in by sea.

ARDE Reports Town's Fall

PA140056 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The following is a recording of a report given to the Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network by Orion Elpidio Pastora, spokesman for the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, on the fall of San Juan del Norte. The report was issued somewhere in the mountains of southern Nicaragua.

[Begin Elpidio Pastora recording] With great satisfaction and the pleasure of Sandinists and revolutionaries we are announcing especially for the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world that after 72 hours of fierce combat and resistance by the followers of the shameful Marxist-Leninist regime, ARDE's heroic troops personally led by Commander Eden Pastora Gomez have occupied San Juan del Norte. In an operation that lasted approximately 8 days, which included harassments of various areas in the Nicaraguan south and Atlantic areas, our heroic troops prevented the arrival of reinforcements by air and sea. Those troops fell along the way under the liberating fire of ARDE's armed forces.

We can report that Commander Eden Pastora has ordered that the waters of San Juan del Norte be mined so that no interventionist ship, regardless of nationality, dare enter the waters liberated by ARDE. ARDE has declared its nonalignment as a testimony to the struggle of the general of free men, Augusto Cesar Sandino.

San Juan del Norte, after 72 hours of fierce combat against the Sandinist People's Army led by Cubans -- one of them Lino Mendoza, chief of the San Juan del Norte garrison, who died in combat -- is now in the hands of ARDE.

ARDE on Casualties, Mines

PA140147 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, announces that San Juan del Norte has fallen in the face of the strength of the guerrillas commanded by Eden Pastora Gomez. The Cubans fled in disarray. ARDE forces attacked the position with rifle and artillery fire, and this morning the operation in San JUan del Norte continued. Pockets of Cubans, violators of women and children, were protecting themselves among the defenseless residents. ARDE has admitted that three of its men have died and five have been wounded. According to a count made on Thursday, ARDE reported 78 of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] communists dead, even though during the whole operation [passage indistinct].

ARDE has issued a communique assuming responsibility for its actions. It has assumed responsibility for mining the Ports of Corinto on the Pacific and El Bluff on the Atlantic, as well as part of the southern shore of Lake Nicaragua.

ARDE has called on the international community not to interfere in its decision to mine the Nicaraguan ports because if they do it will be considered intervention in our affairs, and this would only benefit the Managua government and hinder the definite liberation of our people, who despite their struggle want to see the international community as a friend that respects their wishes for freedom.

We have also received information that Commander Eden Pastora has issued orders for the mining of the Port of San Juan del Norte to begin.

Ministry Denies Town Lost

PA140401 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Defense Ministry spokesmen tonight said that the reports originating in San Jose, Costa Rica, announcing the occupation of the ort of San Juan del Norte, a town with some 500 residents, are groundless. The small town of San Juan del Norte, deep in the southeast of the country, continued to be harassed by counterrevolutionaries led by the criminal and traitor Eden Pastora. However, they have not been able to achieve their goal of occupying positions defended by our Sandinist People's Army. For the past few months the presence of Somozist counterrevolutionaries operating on the Costa Rican border has prevented the safe use of the San Juan River.

Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, charging the use of Costa Rican territory to prepare and organize the attack on San Juan del Norte. Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that he had no information on what was happening in San Juan del Norte, but that the Costa Rican public forces were investigating the Nicaraguan Government's charge.

EPS Counteroffensive Anticipated

PA141712 Paris AFP in Spanish 1552 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Barra del Colorado, Costa Rica, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Pockets of "Sandinist resistance" still exist in the Port of San Juan del Norte in the southernmost region of Nicaragua, which "was occupied on Thursday" by counterrevolutionaries, Costa Rican Rural Guard officials announced today.

Although the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] "controls the situation, a counteroffensive is expected at any moment" from the EPS, the Costa Rican military officials based in Barra del Colorado, 20 km south of San Juan, told AFP. The rural guardsmen, who chose to remain anonymous, approached the Nicaraguan border post in the past few hours and confirmed that "there are many dead and wounded as a result of the fighting." The wounded are being evacuated "in two ARDE helicopters" to the border regions of Los Chiles and Boca de San Carlos, 100 km west of San Juan, where they are being turned over to the Red Cross, they said.

"The fighting began on Tuesday morning and by Thursday afternoon ARDE controlled the situation, but it does not have complete control as yet in view of the pockets of Sandinist resistance," they added. "Yesterday fighting could still be heard, although on a smaller scale," the guardsmen who belong to the 16-member detachment stated.

According to the Costa Rican report, the small Port of San Juan had become a "Sandinist military garrison abandoned by the few civilian inhabitants" over the past few months. Its strategic importance, they noted, rests in its having a small airport and being the entrance point to the navigable San Juan River, which is the point of entry to Lake Nicaragua at the other end of the country.

Meanwhile, in Barra del Colorado a contrasting calm prevails, interrupted only by the noise of the aircraft and vessels that transport groups of North Americans who are coming to spend Holy Week vacations in this small fishermen's village.

A broadcast of the 15 September radio station of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), which is fighting the Sandinist government from the Honduran border, was monitored here today for more details of the takeover of San Juan by ARDE.

According to a report announced in Managua yesterday, ARDE had requested assistance from the FDN to control San Juan, but this has not been confirmed by spokesmen for ARDE, which had previously rejected the possibility of an alliance until the FDN "expels its Somozist leadership."

Sixteen wounded have been treated in Costa Rican hospitals as a result of the fighting in San Juan. One of them died because of serious wounds.

Meanwhile, in the Costa Rican capital the press reported that "aircraft with military provisions for ARDE began to land" in San Juan, where the rebels intend to establish their principal base of operations. For this, the newspaper LA NACION added, the military chief of ARDE, former Nicaraguan Defense Minister Eden Pastora [title as received], ordered the mining of the waters near San Juan to prevent the Sandinists from recovering the port with vessels.

According to the paper, "Pastora is advancing on other towns such as Cangrejal, Cocal and Jaloa" of this isolated region of the Nicaraguan Atlantic, characterized by its dense jungles and vast tropical swamps. The paper picked up reports that ARDE fought in San Juan against "no less than 2,000" Sandinists, which contradicts a statement by several government combatants hospitalized yesterday in the Ciudad Quesada hospital, 100 km north of San Jose, who said that ARDE attacked a detachment of 75 Sandinists with a force of 400 men.

The Managua authorities have not given any more information on the situation in San Juan since the Defense Ministry rejected the report by the counterrevolutionary forces of the port takeover yesterday.

ARDE Detects EPS Boats

PA141941 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1829 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 14 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Spokesmen of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) today announced that their commander, Eden Pastora, is planning to repel a counterattack by the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in San Juan del Norte.

One of Pastora's spokesmen told ACAN-EFE that after the takeover of the Port of San Juan in the Atlantic Ocean, the government forces made several futile attempts to stage a counterattack by river. However, ARDE tracking stations detected in the past hour several boats with EPS soldiers heading toward the waters of Taura and Agua Dulce lagoons in Costa Rican territory, to attempt to recover the important post from there, the ARDE source added.

According to the sources, the counterattack does not pose any serious danger to Pastora's forces, but they will have to repel it by firing into Costa Rica. The ARDE spokesmen drew attention to the fact that "the Sandinists are violating Costa Rican sovereignty, deploying troops on its soil, and are going to provoke an international problem." The Public Security Ministry has no information on this matter, a member of its general staff stated.

ARDE Claims Attack Repelled

PA142245 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 14 Apr (AFP) -- Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) forces today repelled an attempt by government troops to recover the port of San Juan del Norte in the extreme southeastern sector of Nicaragua, an anti-Sandinist spokesman has announced. Orion Pastora, ARDE spokesman in San Jose, said that "two boats from the Port of Bluefields "on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua were repelled as they approached San Juan, where "the last Sandinist resistance was eliminated yesterday."

The importance of San Juan, which is surrounded by dense jungle and tropical marshes, is that it has a small airport and is located at the mouth of the navigable San Juan River, the entry point to Nicaragua Lake at the other extreme of the country. In San Jose, newspapers reported yesterday that "planes had begun to land in San Juan yesterday with war supplies for ARDE." The rebels are trying to turn San Juan into the principal resupply point.

The newspaper LA NACION said that ARDE chief Eden Pastora had therefore ordered the mining of the waters off the coast of San Juan to prevent the Sandinists' recovering the port from the sea. According to the paper "Pastora is advancing toward other towns, such as Cangrejal, Cocal, and Jaloa" located on the isolated section of southern Nicaragua.

ARDE Claims 50-km Beachhead

PA160151 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0052 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 15 Apr (DPA) -- the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), whose military branch is led by Commander Eden Pastora, has established a 50-km-long beachhead in Nicaraguan territory, according to reports in Costa Rica from newsmen in that region. They said there is no doubt that San Juan del Norte is in Pastora's hands.

They said that the beachhead extends from San Juan del Norte to Punta Gorda. The newsmen were able to talk to Pastora, who told them that he seeks to exchange 50 prisoners for some ARDE prisoners held by the Government of Nicaragua. Pastora told newsmen: "Now we have more capaicty to maneuver, more assistance of all kinds after occupying San Juan del Norte."

Special correspondents for newspapers, radio, and television newscasts said that a Nicaraguan Sandinist Army officer, Nery Zeledon, was captured and Lino Espinoza, the chief of the San Juan del Norte detachment appointed by the government, was killed in the fighting. We will spread our control to the southern coast of Nicaragua.

The newsmen said that two Sandinist government vessels are operating some kilometers from San Juan del Norte and are attacking Pastora's men.

According to news reports, there are some 1,000 men in San Juan del Norte, and there is plenty of food, medicine, and war materiel, as well as modern weapons, 2 helicopters, and 3 small aircraft.

Provisional Government Planned

PA160209 Paris AFP in Spanish 0129 GMT 16 Apr 84

[Text] San Juan del Norte, Nicaragua, 15 Apr (AFP) -- Eden Pastora, military leader of the anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), announced here today that the formation of a provisional rebel government will be announced soon. Pastora told newsmen who arrived at this abandoned port in southeastern Nicaragua that "in the next 90 days" the composition of the rebel government will be announced.

The counterrevolutionary leader gave special importance to the appointment of a foreign minister "to handle relations with Costa Rica," on the other side of the bordering San Juan River, at the mouth of which this old port is located. "We will demand international recognition for our new government, because we are going toward Managua," some 350 km, Pastora concluded.

The special AFP correspondent was able to confirm that ARDE's forces totally control this isolated and swampy region where Sandinist Air Force aircraft make sporadic incursions without major consequences.

ARDE Proposes Prisoner Exchange

PA151903 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1758 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpt] San Jose, 15 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Eden Pastora, military chief of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] of Nicaragua, has proposed to the Nicaraguan Government from the recently conquered port of San Juan del Norte a prisoner exchange according to the latest information arriving here from the "war front.

At the same time, Sandinist patrol boats are continuing sporadic attacks against the new rebel position defended by Pastora, known internationally as "Commander Cero," according to insurgent sources in San Jose.

Pastora has been using communications equipment captured from the government forces in San Juan del Norte to communicate with the officials in Managua. San Juan del Norte is a river port in the San Juan Rio Department on the border with Costa Rica.

According to ARDE sources, the only reply received so far has come from Bluefields, another port on the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast, 60 km north of the new insurgent base. According to the same sources, "the response was incredulity, possibly from accepting as fact the statement made in Managua by Commander Lenin Cerna, chief of state security, who conceded that fighting was in progress in San Juan del Norte, but not that it had fallen into Pastora's hands."

Regarding this aspect of the "verbal war," an official spokesman for Commander Cero said in San Jose that "the historic location has been completely occupied and is in the hands of rebel troops." The source added that in response to yesterday's attacks from the sea by several Sandinist ships, Pastora is personally leading his men on the beach to repel any landing attempt.

It was also reported here last night that ARDE columns were fighting against the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in the region of Rio Maiz, more than 30 km from San Juan del Norte. Here the EPS attacked the rebels.

At the Mexican Hospital in San Jose, four ESP soldiers and four ARDE rebels are receiving medial care for wounds sustained in the fighting in San Juan del Norte.

The highest-ranking rebel is the Panamanian Orlando Jose Ortega, known among the guerrillas as "El Puma," who led a squad of 30 men and fought for 5 hours against a government force of 250 men.

FDN CLAIMS INFLICTING 345 CASULATIES ON EPS

PA140447 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 Apr (AFP) -- The Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, today asserted that the death toll during the fighting between its rebel forces and the Sandinist troops, "which has increased during the past hours," is approximately 345 for the government Army.

The counterrevolutionary organization distributed its latest war report in Tegucigalpa, saying that clashes are being waged in Jinotega and Matagalpa Departments. The reports adds that the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, "suffered a defeat and 70 casualities" at El Hado Hill, 25 km north of Jinotega.

The FDN pointed out that Jorge Salazar Task Force members clashed with EPS soldiers in the central area of Matagalpa, 36 km north of Rio Blanco, and inflicted 15 dead on the government forces.

FDN forces also attacked again the military garrison in Yaosca, near Waslala, Matagalpa Department. The DFN recalled that the "Army suffered 260 casualties" during another clash early this month at the same place.

Finally, the FDN reported that they have recovered "a large amount of weapons and ammunition" during these clashes. They added that the government forces were supported by two helicopters during the clash at El Hado, and that "one of the helicopters was damaged by rebel anti-aircraft fire."

CORRECTION TO ITEM ON TELEVISION ACHIEVEMENTS

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Commentary Notes Television System's Achievements," published on page P 15 of the 13 April Latin American DAILY REPORT:

Sourceline should read: PA120122 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Apr 84 (changing "Service" to "Network")

DEATH REPORTED IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY INCIDENT

PA140206 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] (Romulo Niceti), Venezuelan commerical attache to Cuba, has told PRENSA LATINA that on Wednesday a man died when he tried to disarm a Venezuelan Embassy guard. The incident occurred when the man attacked one of the guards protecting that diplomatic mission in Havana.

There are currently 16 people inside the Venezuelan Embassy who in the past 4 years entered the mission illegally and violently. This incident has forced the Cuban Government to provide police protection for the personnel working at the Venezuelan Embassy in Cuba.

CASTRO CASTS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS VOTE IN HAVANA

PA151908 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Excerpts] It has been reported that 4 of the first 16 persons elected as delegates to the Municipal Assemblies of the People's government of Cuba are women. They were elected in the first election round taking place this Sunday throughout the country.

Elections began at 0700 Cuba time in the 19,828 polling places provided throughout the country. More than 6.4 million persons have registered to vote. A total of 10,966 delegates will be elected to the municipal organs of the People's Government in Cuba.

Cuban President Fidel Castro voted at 1000 local time in Electoral College No 74 of Precinct 13 of Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality in Havana. Fidel Castro spoke with journalists outside the polling place and said that in these elections there will be 300,000 more voters than in 1981. He said that there are more women candidates than in past elections, but commented that there are still not many women candidates. Fidel Castro said that the formal educational level of the candidates is now higher and that the organizational work for holding these elections has improved.

Comments on Elections

PA160254 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 84

[Text] Fidel Castro, the top Cuban leader, today was received with applause by residents of Electoral Precinct No 74, corresponding to District 13 of Revolution Park Municipality, where he went to vote at 1000. After voting, Fidel Castro spoke with journalists regarding the increased turnout to vote for delegates to the People's Government National Assembly:

[Begin recording] [words indistinct] 32,000 in 1981, the number of voters has grown, especially the number of youths. The number of workers has increased. Fortunately, we have been able to deal fairly well with the population explosion. [end recording]

Castro then referred to the development of the present elections and the greater organization and stability that has been achieved:

[Begin recording] The total number of voters is 6,424,000 plus. The number of districts is 10,966, just short of 11,000. It was reported that the number of women nominated was a little higher, but it is still not very high. I believe the number of women is 16 and some percent. Here, in this district, (?two out of three) are women.

The level of schooling of the candidates has also increased considerably in the last 4 years. This can be explained by the sustained increase in the level of education of the population as a whole. They have higher levels now.

Of the 277 district delegates who are members of the National Assembly, 251 have been nominated. This means that relatively few have been eliminated, and the number of delegates nominated for another term is between 55 and 60 percent. This gives us the impression that there is greater stability. [end recording]

The Cuban leader also discussed progress made in the field of health and made reference to future health plans:

[Begin recording] I estimate that by the year 2000 we will be employing approximately 20,000 doctors, offering medical service to every 120 families...[changes thought] We estimate that each doctor can serve some 600 persons. We estimate 120 families with 5 members each. However, it will in fact be somewhat less because in Havana the average family has four members. Perhaps in rural areas it will be 120 or less. Naturally, one cannot measure exactly, because all the peasant communities do not have 600 citizens, either, some have 450 or 500, others have 700 or 800, but the people have named this program "A Doctor for Every 120 Families."

To this we also add the doctors who will go to the factories. Next year we will have some going to factories, and we are going to have some in the schools so that the population will be constantly looked after whether at home, at the factory, or at school.

I believe that with the new graduates it will be possible to fulfill this program, when it is adopted as a program, because, I repeat, so far this is being done on an experimental basis. [end recording]

In answer to another question from a journalist, Cuban President Fidel Castro termed the elections held in El Salvador at the end of March 1984 as elections in terror. He also emphasized the difference between voting in Cuba, where the ballot boxes are guarded by Young Pioneers, not soldiers with rifles, as happened in El Salvador.

L.A., BELGIAN DELEGATIONS TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS

PA150152 Paris AFP in Spanish 1234 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Havana, 14 Apr (AFP) -- A delegation from the Latin American Parliament has arrived in Havana to observe the election on Sunday of delegates for the partial renewal of the assemblies throughout the country. Ambriorix Diaz Estrella, vice president of the Latin American Parliament and president of its human rights commission, and legislator of the Dominican Republic, heads the delegation. The other members of the delegation are Caonabo Javier Castillo, Dominican congressman, and Miclos Alcalay, Venezuelan representative to the Latin American Parliament and secretary general of the Andean Parliament.

Montane Meets With L. A. Group

FL131448 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Jesus Montane, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat, and chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department, has met with a delegation of the Latin American Parliament which arrived in Cuba last Monday. The group, headed by Ambriorix Diaz Estrella, vice president of the Latin American Parliament, is paying a visit to Cuba at the invitation of the National Assembly of the People's Government to observe the elections to be held next Sunday, 15 April.

Bravo Welcomes Belgians

FL131647 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, member of the Central Committee and president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has presided at the talks held by that body of the government with a delegation of the Belgian Parliament, which arrived in Cuba on Thursday. The Cuban leader said it was pleasant to have in our midst the representatives of that European country's Parliament as a result of the ANPP invitation, and noted that during their stay in Cuba they will be able to observe next Sunday's elections.

Belgians Visit Hospital

FL140250 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] The delegation of members of the Belgian Parliament that is visiting our country on an invitation from the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] this afternoon visited the Hermanos Almeijeiras Hospital in Centro Habana. The delegation, consisting of 12 senators and 6 representatives, is headed by Senator (Engelmer Isidor), president of the Belgian-Cuban Friendship Group [Grupo Amistad Belgica-Cuba]. When they visited the wards and installations of the hospital, the visitors took a great interest in learning about their operation, the number of medical personnel for each patient -- especially the number of nurses -- and also the attention given to family members of patients who must remain at the hospital for as long as the treatment takes. They were pleasantly surprised when -- in response to their questions -- they were informed of the cost-free medical care provided to the people.

ANAP PRESIDENT RECEIVES POLISH DELEGATION

FL130225 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Text] Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate Politburo member and ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] President, received today, at the ANAP offices, a delegation from the Polish Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth, headed by Marian Orzechowski, Politburo candidate member of the Polish United Workers' Party.

Ramirez Cruz gave a detailed speech on the development of the Cuban rural worker's position and ANAP, and on the measures taken by the revolution to eliminate latifundios and give property titles to those who work the land. He also described the cooperatives and their current performance, and the cooperation between ANAP and the Ministries of Public Health, Education, and the Sugar Industry for the integral improvement of the rural worker.

DELEGATION ATTENDS ANGOLA'S 1ST LABOR CONGRESS

FL141956 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Text] Luanda -- Rene Penalver, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee, and second secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], has greeted Angolan workers who are meeting for their first labor union congress. Penalver, who is participating in the forum as head of the Cuban delegation, stressed the sincere friendship that exists between the Cuban and Angolan peoples and said that he felt the congress would serve to unite Angolans in their struggle against their enemies.

The first congress of the National Union of Workers of Angola [UNTA] began on 11 April and will end on 16 April.

Pascual Luvualu, Politburo member of the MPLA-PT [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola -- Labor Party and UNTA secretary general, gave the main speech sumarizing the principal problems of Angola's working class. More than 600 delegates from all of Angola's provinces and dozens of foreign labor union representatives are participating in the congress.

INTELLECTUALS COMMITTEE TO HOLD MEETING

FL140100 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The permanent committee of the Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America will meet from 20 to 28 April. The meeting will be held to study the holding of a second conference in 1985 and the holding of meetings by the national committees during this year. [as heard]

Some of the permanent committee members who will travel to Cuba for the meeting are: (Walter Yolanda), from Brazil; Ernesto Cardenal, from Nicaragua; Mario Beneveti, from Uruguay; Juan Bosch, from the Dominican Republic; George Lanning, from Barbados; and (Susy Castor), from Haiti.

GDR TO COOPERATE IN SUGAR INDUSTRY REMODELING

FL130220 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The GDR will cooperate in the remodeling of Cuban sugar industry installations. A contract to this effect was signed today in Leipzig by the Chemical Installations Enterprise of that city.

POTATO FARMERS TO GIVE FIDEL 100,000TH QUINTAL

FL131356 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro will be presented with a sack containing the 100,000th quintal of potatoes harvested by members of the Aniceto Perez Agricultural Production Cooperative in Guira de Melena, the first cooperative in Havana Province to attain that goal. The presentation is a testimony that the peasants of the cooperative will not fail to complete their stated goal of harvesting 300,000 quintals of food and vegetables this season.

This announcement was made by Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, in a ceremony celebrating this feat of productivity, which has been achieved for the 2d consecutive year by the cooperative.

U.S. SAID BENT ON DESTROYING CUBAN REVOLUTION

PA131940 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The United States' encouragement of counterrevolutionary and antisocialist activities throughout the world is expressed, in the case of Cuba, openly and cynically.

Our main enemy, U.S. imperialism, has not given up, nor will it easily give up the idea of destroying the Cuban revolution. Many facts have attested to this during these 25 years of revolutionary power. If anything, we have learned during these years that the forms of struggle can change, methods can be renewed, and the enemy's main stress can be transferred to another sector. But one thing will never change: the imperialist design to inflict on Cuba as much damage as possible.

During his speech on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the state security organizations, Division General Jose Abrahantes, interior first deputy minister, expressed this warning: We have to be realistic and brace ourselves for a struggle whose duration we cannot even begin to predict. Brahantes stressed: It is enough to see what happens in various parts of the world, the methods that Yankee imperialism has used in the crime of Grenada and those used against Nicaragua, El Salvador, Lebanon, and other progressive peoples and governments of the world in order to clearly understand the dangers and risks faced by a country like Cuba, which holds an unwavering, revolutionary stance, and which cannot be bribed. These dangers and risks are and always will be upon us.

Despite what Haig has said, we know that President Reagan is still bent on destroying the Cuban revolution. To the threats of aggression and the blockade intensification, we have now to add the new radio station soon to begin broadcasting to increase their slander campaign.

The Pentagon has now announced a new naval exercise in Guantanamo, territory taken away from Cuba at the end of the 19th century. This demonstrates the arrogant U.S. policy against Cuba and includes a real operation to rescue U.S. citizens on this base.

The exercises, known as Ocean Venture-84, have been planned to last from 20 April to 6 May, and have been described by Admiral Ralph Hedges, U.S. Forces commander in the Caribbean, as an exercise aimed at demonstrating that the United States has the necessary ability to protect its citizens.

This provocative game of war includes the transfer of U.S. residents to the state of Florida and the reinforcement of Guantanamo from the sea by landing Marines. As can be seen, Reagan has continued provoking Cuba, but this challenge will make us stronger.

Apparently, the current Washington administration is unable to assimilate the experiences of the past and, consequently, runs the risk of suffering even more embarrassing misfortunes.

U.S. SAID TO VIEW PUERTO RICO AS TESTING GROUND

FL122116 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1914 GMT 12 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The passage of years has shown that the United States' only interest in Puerto Rico is the progressive neocolonialization of that land and its use -- because of its strategic location -- as a testing ground for future military invasions of Latin America.

Today, as has been officially recognized, Puerto Rico has more than 20 percent unemployment, and unemployment reaches 50 percent in some sectors. San Juan, the capital, has a population of nearly 1 1/2 million, which is about half of the total Puerto Rican population of approximately 3 million. The view that San Juan offers to the visitors is limited to a series of hotels and tourist spots with signs in English that make clear its economic and cultural invasion by the United States.

This true image of the misery, colonization, and subjugation of which Puerto Rico is a victim makes ineffective the propaganda that Puerto Rico is a free state and a showcase of democracy. What is left then of our sister nation, of that population desirous of joining [Latin] American emancipation? The independence parties today announced in San Juan that what is left is the possible use of Puerto Rico as a jumping-off point for invasions of Central America.

(Rubon Berrios) of the Independence Party and (Carlos Calliza) of the Socialist Party consider that the 1984 Ocean Venture maneuvers that well begin on the 20th are really a rehearsal for aggression against Nicaragua. In the same fashion, in 1981, similar maneuvers were the prelude to the invasion of Grenada.

BORDER DISPUTES VIEWED BETWEEN U.S., CANADA

PA151350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Apr 84

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Alberto Rabilota]

[Text] While the United States has denied the Hague International Court of Justice jurisdiction over Central American disputes for the next 2 years, Washington is now discussing in that international court a border dispute with Canada.

A few days before it was confirmed at the U.S. Congress that the mining of the Nicaraguan ports had been planned and carried out by the CIA under presidential instructions, Washington's diplomats and politicians had praised the fact that an old border dispute with Canada was being discussed by The Hague International Court of Justice, the highest judicial organization of the United Nations.

In what one could characterize as a dual weight and measurements system, the Reagan administration accepts the International Court of Justice jurisdiction to try a dispute with Canada in its attempt to seize all of the Gulf of Maine, rich fishery resources, hydrocarbon deposits, and the minerals in the seabed of that region. However, the Reagan administration denies this jurisdiction when it is evident that it has carried out illegal activities from the international judicial point of view against Nicaragua.

Regarding the Canadian-U.S. dispute over the Gulf of Maine -- one of several border disputes between the two countries -- it is worthwhile recalling that the dispute reached The Hague International Court of Justice after the U.S. Senate, on a request from the Reagan Administration, reneged on a treaty signed by the two countries in 1980.

The zone in dispute is the Gulf of Maine, with its fishery bank known as Georges Bank and oil and metal deposits. Washington claims everything, that is, approximately 30,000 square miles of sea separating the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia and the New England states.

The conflict became more acute when both countries adopted the 200-mile economic sea limitation in 1977. Since then Canada has been claiming one-third of the 30,000 square miles in dispute and has proposed a borderline that passes through the rich fishery bank on which the economy of Nova Scotia Province depends. The Canadian proposal presented at the beginning of April to the International Court of Justice by Canadian Justice Minister MacGuigan is based on the equidistance principle, a principle considered acceptable for such border disputes.

But this is not the only border dispute between Canada and the United States. There are the Pacific Ocean disputes over the border separating the State of Washington and the Province of British Columbia, a zone rich in salmon. These two countries have another dispute over the Juan de Fuca strait and the Dixon Entrance, a region rich in hydrocarbons and [words indistinct]. There is the Canadian fear that the United States could ruin the ecological balance in both oceans with unrestricted fishing, thus condemning Canadian fishermen on both oceans to misery.

U.S. ACCUSED OF CHEMICAL WARFARE IN EL SALVADOR

PA121906 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Excerpt] Violating international agreements and trampling on world public opinion, the United States has been using chemical weapons against El Salvador. This has been confirmed by a recent report of the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Missing and Murdered Political Prisoners of El Salvador [Comite de Madres y Familiares de Presos Politicos Desaparecidos y Asesinados de El Salvador].

This organization has charged in Mexico City that during its war operations, the Salvadoran Army uses toxic products such as napalm and white phosphorus supplied by the U.S. Government. This new practice is now a part of the counterinsurgency plans devised in an effort to annihilate FMLN guerrilla forces.

A short time ago a former CIA agent of the U.S. Government disclosed that several tons of military supplies are shipped to El Salvador almost every week, as well as an undetermined quantity of bacteriological and viral agents of tremendous destructive power. (Scott Burns), specially hired by the CIA for this purpose, has indicated that Salvadoran rivers and creeks are being contaminated with deadly substances known as CN, FN, G B, and BX [not further identified] that act directly on the human nervous system.

La Reina canton in Chalatenango Department has been chosen as a center for biological research by U.S. specialists who carry out experiments with local residents as if with laboratory rats. In Palo Grande, Guadalupe, Copapayo, and (Teman), in Cuscatlan Department massive bombings ordered by the Salvadoran Government have caused the civilian population to suffer from burns, vomiting, bleeding, and dehydration, according to several of these victims who have testified before the Salvadoran Legal Assistance Office. (Scott Burns) himself has confirmed that the penetration of BX through the human skin produces an oily film that causes immediate death through asphyxiation.

As if this were not bad enough, specialists of various countries have categorically asserted that [word indistinct] and ecological damages in a country like El Salvador, which depends solely on agricultural resources, will be practically irreparable.

But such crimes are not enough for U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He is currently demanding that the U.S. Congress give him more money to send to the El Salvador regime so that defenseless Salvadoran civilian citizens will continue to die by U.S. bombs and lethal gases.

U.S. SAID SET TO LAUNCH ATTACK AGAINST NICARAGUA

PA132241 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Alberto Rabilotta; from Montreal, Canada; no date given -- live or recorded]

[Text] The United States has the necessary military infrastructure in Honduras to launch director indirect military intervention against Nicaragua with only 24-hour notice. Despite White House statements that the United States is not considering or programming plans for the use of military forces against Nicaragua or any other Central American country, the truth is quite different.

U.S. congressional sources assert that the Pentagon already has the necessary infrastructure to launch, for example, the 82d Airborne Division -- which invaded Grenada in October 1983 -- and to place it in combat readiness within 24 hours. Washington has built in Honduras what are in effect several military installations that include airports, radar systems, bases, ammunition and food stores, and heavy equipment, as well as hospitals. In addition, the Reagan administration yesterday did not deny that plans for an aggression against Nicaragua or the deployment of troops to El Salvador have been prepared. Neither did it discuss the different forms adopted by the aggression against the Sandinist revolution. The economic aggression, the financing and training of former Somozists, the mining of Nicaraguan ports, the bombing and air and maritime attacks represent -- individually and as a whole -- acts of war [as heard] which are being perpetrated by the Reagan administration against Nicaragua.

Due to the U.S. Senate's reaction to the mining of Nicaraguan ports, the White House is seeking to disguise the truth by promising something it has denied in its daily actions for approximately 4 years. Also, it is well known that Ronald Reagan's advisers have launched a diplomatic offensive with the closest U.S. allies in the Caribbean and Central America in an attempt to conceal a large-scale action against Nicaragua -- as an alleged joint action. Despite its statements, the White House has not only continued its warmongering plans in Central America but increasingly views them as something which might be necessary to achieve the goal which interests President Reagan the most in this phase: his reelection.

EL SALVADOR'S UNGO ON SECOND ELECTORAL ROUND

PA141917 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Apr 84

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] of El Salvador and the Nationalist Republican Alliance are making earnest efforts to ensure the support of those groups which will not run in the second electoral round scheduled for 6 May. During this second round of the electoral farce in El Salvador, the rightist Popular Orientation Party, which held eighth place during the first round, has announced that it will vote for the PDC.

Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador, has asserted that the coming elections will allow only for a choice between two evils and that it is not difficult to know which is the lesser evil.